

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 497.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1855.

[Price 6d.]

PATRON: H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT.
ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

MONDAY EVENING, LECTURE on the COMPARATIVE ANATOMY of the EYE, by GEORGE PILCHER, Esq.
TUESDAY EVENING, the 16th inst., DRAMATIC READING, by Mrs. CHATTERLEY: "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING."
Explanation of the ART of POTICHOMANIE, by Mrs. MAKEPEACE.
LECTURES, by GEORGE BUCKLAND, Esq., on SONGS and SONG WRITERS.
LECTURES by J. H. PEPPER, Esq., and Dr. BACHHOFFNER.
NEW DISSOLVING VIEWS of the LATE BATTLES; and of SINDBAD the SAILOR. SPLENDID MOVING DIORAMA, depicting the PASSAGE from LIVERPOOL across the ATLANTIC, and embracing VIEWS of the CITIES in the UNITED STATES. STEAM GUN, COSMORAMAS, &c., &c.

ROYAL GALLERY of ILLUSTRATION,
14, REGENT-STREET.—The Railway at Balaklava; Battle of Inkermann; Storm in the Black Sea; Battle of the Alma; Cavalry Charge at Balaklava; Pictorial Map of Sebastopol, &c., are now exhibited in the DIORAMA, illustrating EVENTS of the WAR. The Lecture by Mr. STOCQUELER. Daily at Three and Eight. Admission, 1s., 2s., and 3s.

A DAM and EVE.—This great original Work, by JOSEPH VAN LERIUS, is now ON VIEW at 57, PALL-MALL, opposite Marlborough House, from Eleven to Six daily. Admission, One Shilling.

WANTED, for a FEW MONTHS, a TRAINED MISTRESS, in a Dissenter's Mixed School. One acquainted with the British or Infant School system will be preferred.
Address, Mr. Willoughby, Parrock-street, Gravesend.

WANTED, a YOUNG PERSON of decided piety, Dissenting principles, good plain education, genteel manners, and a clever needlewoman, to take entire charge of a little girl six years old; also, to make herself useful to the mistress of a large family.
Address, A. B., Post-office, Blackburn, Lancashire.

A CERTIFIED MISTRESS WANTED for the GIRLS' BRITISH SCHOOL, HARP-ALLEY, London. Salary, 60*l.*, independent of the Government emoluments. There are Three Pupil Teachers in their Fourth and Fifth years.
Apply to the Secretary of the School, 55, Guilford-street, Russel-square, London.

A YOUNG PERSON is desirous of obtaining a SITUATION in the DRESSMAKING or MANTLE BUSINESS. Three years unexceptionable character.
Address, by letter, B. P. R. S., Post-office, Salisbury.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, a RESPECTABLE JUNIOR ASSISTANT in the GENERAL DRAPERY BUSINESS.
Apply to Messrs. Farmer and Pearson, South Parade, Nottingham.

TO JOURNEYMAN BREAD and BISCUIT BAKERS.—WANTED, an experienced person in the above line. Unexceptionable references as to character and qualifications required. A married man preferred.
Address, F. R., 105, High-street, Guildford.

TO TAILORS.—An opportunity offers in a First-class Trade, situate in a fashionable watering-place, for a respectable YOUNG MAN, under Nineteen years of age, as IMPROVER in the CUTTING-ROOM for One or Two years. Board and lodging only will be given.
Address, A. B., Messrs. East, Landon, and Holland, 10, Old Bond-street, London.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—WANTED, by a Member of a Church of the Independent Denomination, a RESPECTABLE YOUTH, as an IN-DOOR APPRENTICE to the CABINET BUSINESS. He would be considered as one of the Family, and under the immediate inspection of his Master. A Premium required.
Apply to A. B., No. 11, Minster-street, Reading.

TO STATIONERS, &c.—A Member of a Christian Church, formerly engaged in the Manufacturing Department, is desirous of other occupation in a light but active capacity, requiring the services of a strictly-confidential party.
Address, N. D., 1, Gough-square, Fleet-street.

WANTED, a CANVASSER for a LIFE OFFICE. Salary, 100*l.* per annum. A THREE MONTHS' trial only will be given in the first instance. A SECOND APPOINTMENT is likewise VACANT, where One Month's trial only will be given. State name and address in full, age, with what Office before connected, and what business done for each, and any further particulars that may be useful to assist the Advertising.
Address, prepaid, to C. F., No. 16, South Audley-street, Grosvenor-square. No personal applications will be attended to.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, MOUNT-STREET, DEVONPORT, TO BE SOLD.—This Chapel has been erected about thirty-nine years; is substantially built; is capable of seating 700 persons; and attached thereto is a good school recently erected. The Premises, which have cost over 2,000*l.*, the Trustees are under the necessity of selling, to clear off the existing debt thereon, amounting to 8,000*l.* The Chapel has been closed since January last the Congregation being unable to sustain the burden of the debt. If this were removed, the cause might be revived under an able and zealous ministry—the population in the immediate locality being 4,000 or 5,000. The Trustees would be willing to transfer the property for less than the debt on it; and the attention of societies and individuals is earnestly invited to prevent its being employed for secular purposes.
Applications addressed to Mr. D. H. Hainsell, House Agent, Devonport, will receive immediate attention.

TO BE LET, a Convenient SIX-ROOMED HOUSE, with Large Garden, in Hatcham-park, near the New Cross Railway Station.

For further particulars apply to T. T., care of Mr. Freeman, 69, Fleet-street, City.

MINISTERIAL.—The Rev. FREDERICK LEONARD, LL.B. (late of the Baptist College, Bristol, and University College, London), wishes to form a Permanent PREACHING ENGAGEMENT, as ASSISTANT to a Minister, or as Sole PASTOR of a Baptist Church, in or near London.

Address, 14, Hampshire-terrace, Torrano-avenue, Camden-road, London.

FURNISHED APARTMENTS, CAMBERWELL.—A SINGLE GENTLEMAN or LADY can be accommodated with Respectably Furnished Apartments, Attendant, &c., on moderate terms, in the above neighbourhood. Five Minutes' walk from the Walworth-road Turnpike. No children.

For cards of address, apply to 92, Fenchurch-street, City.

BRITISH and FOREIGN SAILORS' SOCIETY.

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY will be celebrated by a PUBLIC BREAKFAST, at the LONDON TAVERN, on TUESDAY, May 15, 1855, at Nine o'clock precisely. Tickets, 2s. 6d. (for a Lady or Gentleman), to be had at the Doors; or of Messrs. Nisbet and Co., Berners-street; Messrs. Ward and Co., Paternoster-row; and at the Offices of the Society, 2, Jeffrey's-square, St. Mary-axe.

The PUBLIC MEETING will commence at Ten o'clock, when the Rt. Hon. the Earl of DUCIE, President, will take the Chair.

THE HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of this affiliated Branch of British Missions will be held at FINSBURY CHAPEL, on MONDAY EVENING next, May 14.

The Chair will be taken by JOHN CHEETHAM, Esq., M.P., at Half-past Six precisely.

The Revs. Dr. McFarlane, Dr. Archer, Dr. Brown; Thomas Barnes, Esq., M.P., and other Gentlemen, are expected to address the Meeting, and details will be given of the Society's operations.

RAGGED CHURCH and CHAPEL UNION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of this Society will be held on TUESDAY EVENING, May 15, at EXETER HALL.

The Right Hon. the Earl of SHAPESBURY will take the Chair at Half-past Six o'clock precisely.

Tickets may be had at the Office of the Society, 15, Exeter Hall.

THE NEW ASYLUM for FATHERLESS CHILDREN, STAMFORD-HILL.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty the QUEEN.

(Instituted 1844.)

Designed to Receive and Educate Fatherless Children, from the earliest infancy throughout the whole period of childhood, without distinction of age, sex, place, or religious connexion.

The GENERAL MEETING and MIDSUMMER ELECTION of this Charity will occur on MONDAY, the 18th JUNE, at the LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPS-GATE-STREET. All applications should be made forthwith to the office, where blank forms for candidates, and every other information, may be obtained on any day, from Ten to Four.

SUBSCRIPTIONS most thankfully received.

DAVID W. WIRE, } Hon.
THOS. W. AVELING, } Secretaries.

All communications to be addressed, and Post-office orders made payable, to Mr. JOHN CUZNER, Secretary, and forwarded to him at the office of the CHARITY, 32, POULTRY.

THE NEW ASYLUM for FATHERLESS CHILDREN, STAMFORD-HILL.

The Interest of the Subscribers is very earnestly requested on behalf of EMMA JANE ANSCOMBE, whose case is a most distressing one, and possesses peculiar claims on the sympathy of the public at the present time.

Her father was a Fireman on board H.M. Steam Transport Prince, which founders with all hands, in the hurricane which swept the Black Sea, in November last. The Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund have not admitted the claims of the family for assistance, and the widow, with three children under six years old, are dependent on her precarious earnings at shirt-making.

The Board of the Charity have at once received the child as a Case of Emergency, subject to the Election in June, but if not then successful, she must, by the rules, leave the Institution.

Proxies will be thankfully received by Edward Hertslet, Esq., Foreign-office.

All applications on the subject, also as to Proprietorship and Membership, to be addressed to Mr. Bennet, Secretary, at the Temporary Office, 35, Ludgate-hill.

Any gentleman in town or country not being a Member or Debuture-holder, but wishing to avail himself of the privileges of the Club for this temporary period, may obtain information as to the names and addresses of Members, whose right of introduction is unlimited, by application to the Secretary as above.

N.B.—The Club will be closed after the 19th for completion, and the regular opening duly announced.

*Hitherto Printed
by Fleet Street*

PEACE SOCIETY.

THE THIRTY-NINTH PUBLIC ANNIVERSARY of the PEACE SOCIETY will be held in FINSBURY CHAPEL, MOORFIELDS, on TUESDAY EVENING, May 22, 1855.

CHARLES HINDLEY, Esq., M.P., is expected to take the Chair at Half-past Six o'clock.

Doors open at Six o'clock.

REGENT'S PARK BAPTIST CHAPEL

(late Diorama).

The HON. and REV. B. W. NOEL will preach a SERMON in the above place, on Wednesday Evening, May 9th. Service to commence at Seven o'clock.

REGENT'S PARK BAPTIST CHAPEL

(formerly Diorama).

The REV. W. LANDELLS, late of Birmingham, Minister of the place, will commence his labours on Sunday, May 5th Services, Eleven in the Morning, and Seven o'clock in the Evening.

ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL-BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING of the Members and Friends of this Society will be held at the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, on THURSDAY EVENING, May 10.

The Report of the Second year's proceedings will be presented; the committee and officers chosen; and other business transacted. The Chair will be taken at Half-past Five, P.M., by FRANK CROSSLEY, Esq., M.P.

Aspley Peatt, Esq., M.P., Joshua Wilson, Esq., Rice Hopkins, Esq., the Revs. G. Smith, Dr. Morton Brown, Dr. Campbell, J. Corbin, T. Aveling, J. C. Gallaway, A.M., and other gentlemen, are expected to address the meeting.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

AT the MEETING of MEMBERS, held MAY 1, 1855, in the LECTURE-HALL, 168, ALDERSGATE-STREET,

JOHN MANN, Esq., in the Chair,

1. It was moved by Mr. J. Smith, and seconded by Mr. Starling, and unanimously resolved,—

That the Report now read be adopted and printed under the direction of the Committee.

2. It was moved by Mr. Culverwell, and seconded by Mr. Lindsay, and resolved unanimously,—

That the following be the Officers and Committee for the year ensuing.

PRESIDENT—Hon. ARTHUR KINNAIRD, M.P.

TREASURER—Mr. Alderman CHALLIS, M.P.

SECRETARIES.

Messrs. W. H. Watson, Peter Jackson.

Messrs. William Grosser, Josiah Forsyth.

COMMITTEE.

STEPHEN WARNER, Hon. Member.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Mark Phillips, Esq.	5 0 0	Mr. J. D. Piper.	1 1 0
A Friend . . .	5 5 0	Mr. A. Linacil .	0 10 0
Ditto . . .	5 5 0	Mr. J. Jesup .	0 10 0
W. Taylor, Esq.	5 5 0	Mr. Bloomfield .	0 10 0
P. A. Taylor, Esq.	5 5 0	Mr. Alfred May .	1 0 0
Mrs. P. A. Taylor . . .	5 0 0	Mr. J. A. Tabor .	0 10 6
Edward Balme, Esq.	2 0 0	Mr. J. F. Butler .	1 0 0
A. Anderson, Esq.	3 0 0	Mr. E. Dodwell .	0 10 0
Sterry, Sterry, & Co.	3 2 0	Mr. T. Barry .	0 10 0
Charles Curling, Esq.	1 1 0	Mr. H. May .	0 10 0
Wm. Collins, Esq.	1 1 0	Rev. Dr. Acworth .	0 10 0
E. Marlborough, Esq.	1 0 0	S. Taylor, Esq. .	0 10 0
J. Y. Powell, Esq. . . .	1 1 0	Mr. W. Clemence .	0 10 0
R. Craven, Esq. . . .	1 1 0	George Day, Esq. .	1 1 0
Daniel Pratt, Esq. . . .	1 1 0	W. H. Hawkes, Esq. .	2 2 0
T. Thompson, Esq. . . .	0 10 0	W. Tabor, Esq. .	1 1 0
T. G. Grundy, Esq. . . .	0 10 0	W. Bayley, Esq. .	1 0 0
Buswell, Esq. . . .	0 10 0	Messrs. Johns .	2 2 0
Rev. E. T. Prust	1 0 0	Mr. J. Challis .	1 1 0
Mr. Ben Thomas	1 0 0	Mr. W. Barnard .	1 1 0
Messrs. Cunliffe & Co.	1 1 0	Mr. Bloomfield .	0 10 0
Paul Fearon, Esq. . . .	1 1 0	D. Gurteen, Esq. .	1 1 0
Rev. J. P. Malleson	1 1 0	H. Webb, Esq.	

SARL'S ARGENTINE SILVER PLATE

IS THE BEST SUBSTITUTE FOR SOLID SILVER.

MANUFACTORY, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House), LONDON.

THIS unrivalled production continues to give the same satisfaction as when first introduced by SARL and SONS, 18 years ago. From its intrinsic value, and brilliant appearance, it far surpasses all other substitutes for solid Silver. A new and magnificent stock has just been completed for the present season, to which public inspection is respectfully invited. It comprises SPOONS and FORKS, CORNER DISHES and COVERS, DISH-COVERS, EPERGNE and GARNELABRA with Beautiful Figures and Classical Design, TEA and COFFEE EQUIPAGES, CRUET FRAMES, OAK BASKETS, CANDLESTICKS, SALVERS, TEA TRAYS, DECANTER STANDS, LIQUEUR FRAMES, TEA URNS and KETTLES, SOUP and SAUCE TUREENS, with every article requisite for the Dinner, Tea, or Breakfast Service. Pamphlets, containing drawings and prices of all the articles, gratis, and sent postage free to all parts of the kingdom. Any article may be had separately as a sample.

SOLE INVENTORS AND MANUFACTURERS, 18, POULTRY.

SARL and SONS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House, London.)

24, CROWN-STREET, READING.

ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES,
by Mrs. S. W. KILPIN and Miss FULLER.
Testimonials, References, and Terms, upon application.

H O P E H O U S E A C A D E M Y,
WOODFORD-GREEN, ESSEX.

The Rev. W. BURNETT continues to receive a Limited Number of YOUNG GENTLEMEN to BOARD and EDUCATE.

Woodford is celebrated for its salubrious air, elevated situation, and gravelly soil.

Prospectuses forwarded on application.

PORTLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
PLYMOUTH, conducted by Mr. R. F. WEYMOUTH, M.A. (of University College, London), M.R.A.S., &c., &c., assisted by well-qualified and experienced Masters.

The Course of Studies pursued at this Establishment is suitable as preparatory either for a College Course, or for Professional or Commercial Life.

The house is very healthily situated in the highest part of the town, and close to the northern outskirts, but at a convenient distance for sea-bathing.

Terms, from 35 to 45 guineas per annum.

EDUCATION for YOUNG LADIES,
King-street, Leicester.—The MISSSES MIAULL, whose school has been established for many years, continue to receive a limited number of Young Ladies for BOARD and EDUCATION. The best masters are engaged for French, German, Drawing, Music, Singing, and Deportment.

References: Rev. G. Legge, LL.D., Leicester; Rev. J. Sutcliffe, Manchester; W. Sunderland, Esq.; Ashton-under-Lyne; Rev. J. G. Miall, Bradford; Rev. G. R. Miall, Ullesthorpe; and E. Miall, Esq., M.P., Sydenham-park, London.—Terms and full particulars on application. The ensuing quarter will commence on the 2nd of April.

L E I C E S T E R . — G E N T L E M E N ' S S C H O O L .
Mr. FRANKLIN receives PUPILS to Board and Educate, from the age of ten. In addition to Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, which are carefully taught, the course of instruction includes many subjects of useful and general information. The modern languages and the accomplishments are taught by able masters. An eminent Professor attends from London to lecture on Chemistry. Individual and anxious attention is bestowed upon the characters of the Pupils; and their comfort is consulted in all the arrangements of the family. The general terms are Forty Guineas a year.

Reference may be made to the parents of pupils who are now or who were formerly, in the school; among others, to J. Mellor, Esq., Recorder of Leicester; S. Stowe, Esq., Town Clerk, Leicester; J. J. Hollings, Esq., Leicester; Rev. Dr. Wenslow, Leamington; Rev. J. R. Barker, Sirring-hill College, Birmingham, &c.

P E S T A L O Z Z I A N P R E P A R A T O R Y
SCHOOL for YOUNG LADIES and GENTLEMEN, 39, GLOUCESTER-ROAD, REGENTS-PARK. Conducted by Miss F. GAIRDNER, with competent Assistants.

In this Establishment Six Young Gentlemen are received as Boarders; and unremitting attention is paid to their health, domestic comforts, and to their religious, moral, and intellectual training.

The course of instruction includes Scripture Lessons, Natural History, Grammar, Geography, Lessons on Objects, Form, Colour, Writing, Linear Drawing, Mental and Slate Arithmetic, Elements of Vocal Music, Drilling, &c.

A Lecture will be delivered once a month on Chemistry, by Mr. J. L. King, of the Royal Polytechnic Institution; and Masters attend for Latin, French, and Music.

The periods for receiving Pupils are the middle of January, the second week in April, and the second week in September. The half of each Term is also available for a Pupil's entrance.

References are kindly permitted to the Rev. J. C. Harrison, 24, Queen's-road, Regent's-park; the Rev. W. J. Langdale, 2, Ormonde-terrace, Albert-road, Regent's-park; the Rev. J. J. Evans, Chaplain of the Home and Colonial School Society, Gray's-inn-road; J. S. Reynolds, Esq., Hampstead, and Home and Colonial School Society, Gray's-inn-road; Dr. W. B. Carpenter, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c., Examiner in Physiology in the University of London, and Principal of University Hall, Gordon-square; Oscar M. Clayton, Esq., 3, Percy-street, Bedford-square.

THE SCOTCH EDUCATION BILL.

A T A M E E T I N G o f t h e C O M M I T T E E appointed by the CONFERENCE of FRIENDS of VOLUNTARY EDUCATION held in LONDON, on the 6th of MAY, 1853, convened to consider the Education Bills affecting England and Wales, now before Parliament,

SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., in the Chair.

It was resolved unanimously,—

1. That, while a large proportion of the people of Scotland, not unnaturally, resent the exclusively ecclesiastical character of their system of national education, especially in the present condition of the National Church, this Committee regret to see so many of them eager to place the entire tuition of the lower and middling classes in the hands of an Educational Board, although composed of secular persons, thus ignoring the primary obligation and honourable privilege of parents in relation to the education of their children, and injuriously superseding a large amount of Voluntary Education now carried on.

2. That, in the judgment of this Committee, the vital question of religious instruction, which creates no difficulty while the parochial schools are under the direction of an ecclesiastical body, and which would create no difficulty were education in the hands of parents, becomes a difficulty, not only of a formidable, but an utterly insoluble kind, the moment education is taken into secular hands, and supported by public funds, whether raised by a school-rate, or supplied by the Parliamentary grant; since none who maintain the Voluntary principle in religion can consent to the appropriation of public money to religious teaching; none who value education rightly can accept it bereft of this all-important element.

3. That, in the opinion of this Committee, the Bill "to provide for the education of the people in Scotland," is founded on an unnecessary as well as an excessive and misplaced reliance on the extension of scholastic machinery, which, without an interest awakened in the hearts of parents, can be of little use, and is likely to be especially wanting in those kindly and zealous elements which constitute the real power of all reformatory systems.

(Signed)

S. MORLEY, Chairman.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES.

SARL and SONS, WATCH MANUFACTURERS, 18 POULTRY (near the Mansion House), invite attention to their new and very extensive STOCK of GOLD and SILVER WATCHES. The patterns are of the latest style, and the movements of the most highly-finished description. Every make can be had. The following prices will convey an outline of the Stock, combining economy with quality:—

	Gold Cases and Dials.	Silver Cases.
Watches of the Horizontal make, jewelled in four holes, main winding power, 1st size	£ 10 0	2 18 0
Ditto, 2nd size	7 10 0	3 3 0
Ditto, 3rd size	6 10 0	3 10 0
Patent lever movements, detached escapements, jewelled in four or six holes, 2nd size	9 9 0	3 18 0
Ditto with the bat, fashionable style, with the most highly finished movements, jewelled in ten extra holes, 3rd size	14 14 0	5 18 0

A written warranty for accurate performance is given with every watch, and a twelve-months' trial allowed. A very extensive and splendid assortment of fine gold neck-chains, charged according to the weight of sovereigns.

A pamphlet, containing a list of the prices of the various articles in gold and silver, may be had gratis.—Address,

SARL and SONS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House, London.)

C L E R I C A L G A R M E N T S . — A S U I T for 4L. 14s. 6d. of West of England Black Cloth, of great durability, together with general excellence combined with economy, may be met with at the Establishment of Messrs. NICOLL, PALETOT PATENTEES, 114, 116, 118, 120, Regent-street; and 22, Cornhill, London.

EVERLASTING GOLD PENS.

THE sale of several gross during a short period is the best guarantee of the superiority and cheapness of ALFRED PEGLER'S WARRANTED GOLD PENS. Full size, 3s. each; smaller, 2s. 6d.; Silver Cases for ditto, 2s. 6d. each. A great variety of Penholders, with Patent Pencils, in gold and Silver, suitable for presents. They will be forwarded free by post to any address, and exchanged if not approved.

Each Pen bears the name of ALFRED PEGLER, 131, HIGH-STREET, Southampton.

G E E ' S B E D D I N G F A C T O R Y and F U R-

NISHING WAREHOUSES, 22, and 23, NEWINGTON-CAUSEWAY, BOROUGH, and HIGH-STREET, KINGSLAND. W. C. GEE begs to announce that having just completed an extensive enlargement of his Premises, he can now supply superior Furniture at the lowest price. Mahogany Arabian Bedstead, 2L. 18s., Iron Portable Bedstead, well suited for Emigrants, 10s. 6d., Full-size Feather Bed, 12. ss., Poultry Feathers, 10d. per lb., Capital Grey Goose, 1s. 2d. 2 ft. 6in. Marble Top Wash-handstand, 1L. 6s.; 3ft. 6in. Mahogany Loo Table, Solid Top, 1L. 6s., and every other article at prices equally low.

COCOA containing, as it does, a farinaceous substance and a bland oil, is a most valuable article of diet. To adapt it, however, to delicate stomachs, it is essential that the farinaceous substance be perfectly incorporated with the oily, so that the one prevents the other from separating. Such union exists in the Cocoa here presented. The delightful flavour, in part dependent on the oil, is fully developed, and the whole preparation made grateful to the weakest digestion.

JAMES EPPS, HOMEOPATHIC CHEMIST
Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly,
112, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury,
82, Old Broad-street, City.

In regard to purity, see the Report of the Analytical Sanitary Commission in the *Times*, July 5, 1851.

T H E I D O N E O U S T R O U S E R S . — A n

excellent fitting Garment, unsurpassed for ease, elegance, and comfort, in sitting, walking, and ESPECIALLY RIDING. Modern and best materials only employed. First price, One Guinea. Also a large assortment of every style of Garment suitable for the present season, ready for immediate use, up to order at moderate charges. Particulars for self-measurement, &c., sent by post.

HENRY L. MARSHALL, 516 and 517, New Oxford-street, Entrance, corner of Duke-street, leading to the British Museum.

C O A L S . — Eastern Counties' Railway.

The following are this day's prices of COALS brought to London by this railway:—From the County of Durham-Stewart's Wall's-end, 26s. per ton. Whitwell or Old Eltham-Wall's-end, 24s. per ton. From the Yorkshire and Derbyshire coal fields, best quality:—Silkstone main, double screened, 22s. per ton; Rothwell Haigh, Clay Cross, and Tapton, screened 21s. per ton; Barnsley Softs, screened, 19s. 6d. per ton; Hard Mean coals, 20s. 6d. Baker's Hartley's, 19s. per ton. Nut, 1s.; Small, 1s. These coals will be delivered at the above prices two miles from the Mile-end or Bishopsgate Stations. Beyond five and under five miles, 1s. per ton extra. Beyond five miles, 1s. per ton per mile extra. Orders may be addressed to Mr. ALFRED S. PRIOR, Mile-end or Bishopsgate Stations. Cash to be paid on or before delivery.

By order,
Bishopsgate Station, January, 1855.
J. B. OWEN, Secretary.

B E S T C O A L S O N L Y . — COCKERELL

and Co., COAL MERCHANTS to HER MAJESTY. Coal price to-day, 26s. per ton for screened unmixed best. Coals (officially certified), to which quality their trade has been exclusively confined for the last twenty years. Purfleet Wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars, and Eaton Wharf, Belgrave-place, Pimlico.

R A I L W A Y A C C I D E N T I N S U R A N C E .

16,221. 5s. have already been paid as compensation for Fatal and other Railway Accidents, by the RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

EXAMPLES.
1,000*s.* was paid to the Widow of J. G., killed on the 24th February 1852, secured by a payment of 1*s.*

350*s.* was paid to H. C. H. J., who had his leg broken on the 31st Aug., 1853, secured by a payment of 1*s.*

20*s.* was paid to W. P., severely injured on the 19th September, 1854, secured by a payment of 1*s.*

For the convenience of frequent travellers, Periodical Insurances are granted, which now cover the risk of Fatal Accidents while travelling in any class carriage on any Railway in the United Kingdom or on the Continent of Europe, and insure Compensation for Personal Injury in any Railway Accident in the United Kingdom only.

To Insure 1,000*s.* at an Annual Premium of 20*s.*

Ditto 20*s.* ditto 20*s.*

Insurances can also be effected securing the same advantages for terms of five or ten years, or for the whole of life, at greatly reduced rates, which may be learned from the Company's Prospectus, to be had at the Offices, and at all the principal Railway Stations.

A new class of Insurance has also been established in case of Death by Railway accident alone, without compensation for Injury.

To Insure 1,000*s.* at an Annual Premium of

Ditto any sum not exceeding 1,000*s.* for the whole of life by a single payment of 6*s.* per cent.: thus one payment of 3*s.* will secure 1,000*s.*

The Premiums charged include the Stamp Duty, this being the only Company Insuring against Railway Accidents, empowered by Special Act of Parliament to pay a commuted Stamp Duty. Railway Passengers' Assurance Office, WILLIAM J. VIAN, 3, Old Broad-street, London. Secretary.

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 497.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1855.

[PRICE 6d.

CONTENTS.

Page.	Page.
ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS:	
The Liberation of Religion Society	357
The Last Appeal	357
The Milton Club	357
Church-rate Petitions	358
Our Church-rate Record	358
Religious Intelligence	358
Anniversary Meetings	358
Sébastopol Committee	362
Postscript	363
Notice to Correspondents	365
Summary	366
Notes from the House of Commons	366
The End and the Means of the New Movement	367
Anniversary Meetings (Continued)	368
Parliamentary Proceedings	368
The City Meeting on Administrative Reform	371
The War	371
Foreign and Colonial Court, Personal, & Official News	373
Miscellaneous News	373
Births, Marriages, and Deaths	373
Money Market and Commercial News	373
Bank of England	373
Gazette	374
Markets	374

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION SOCIETY.

It would ill become us to suffer the annual meeting of the Council of the Liberation of Religion Society to pass over without comment. If we do not often trouble our readers with eulogistic references to its proceedings, our reserve must be taken to originate in the conviction that its own acts speak more eloquently than can any words of ours, and that the visible results of its consistent activity will be its best recommendation to public confidence. There was a time when it needed advocacy—and we gave it such as we could—but that time has happily gone by. It now stands erect in its own strength. It is progressively developing its own inherent might. It is doing its work more quietly than heretofore, because it is doing it with more concentrated energy. If any one suspects it of inefficiency or idleness, we venture to say that he will not find his suspicions confirmed in the House of Commons. *There*, at least, its influence is felt. There its usefulness may be decisively tested. Through a period of unparalleled public languor, the only, or nearly the only great questions of domestic policy which have been kept alive, and which are making progress, are those questions to which the Liberation Society has put its hands.

The first year of the war has been a trying one to all home movements of a reforming tendency. The expectation roused by our expedition to the East—the flush of mad excitement which followed the victory on the Alma—the “horrible and heart-rending” accounts of the sufferings of our army, during their winter campaign in the Crimea—the strong indignation which prostrated the Aberdeen Administration—the restlessness occasioned by a long Ministerial *interregnum*—the negotiations for peace, commenced with such solemnity at Vienna—and, finally, the second bombardment of Sébastopol—have so fully pre-occupied the public mind and absorbed its sympathies, as to leave far greater subjects scarcely a chance of hearing, and still less of interest. It would not be wonderful, therefore, if, during so eventful a year, an enterprise having no possible bearing on the war, should have drooped for want of support. To have succeeded in barely maintaining its own would have been a sufficient proof of its vitality and power. The Liberation Society has done more than this. It has improved its position. It has increased its resources. It has widened its sphere of influence. It has achieved a surprising amount of success. What higher eulogium could be passed upon it?

The Report of the Executive Committee to the Council, which we have inserted *in extenso* in another part of our paper, not only affords abundant evidence of the useful exertions of this society, but contains a most interesting and gratifying sketch of the steady progress which the principle on which the Society is based continues to make throughout the British dominions. It is impossible, we think, for any intelligent Nonconformist to give that document a deliberate perusal without feeling a glow of satisfaction. That brief annual record of facts, eloquent in its modesty, ought to awaken pious gratitude, and will surely tend, if anything can do so, to confirm the Dissenters’ confidence in

the strength of their own principles. And if the society could accomplish nothing beyond this, it would not have existed nor laboured in vain. For, perhaps there is nothing more difficult than to give men practical confidence in the reality and importance of truths that are comparatively unpopular. Until they have conquered for themselves a title to the world’s esteem—until they have proved that they can *do* something—in short, until they have demonstrated that they are a *power*, able to achieve what they represent in theory—they are but half believed in even by their own advocates. In English society, especially, men are careful to shun every word and deed which might lay them open to the charge of being “visionary”—and many is the Nonconformist who has shrunk from connecting himself with the organisation now under notice, not because he disapproved of its objects, but simply because, in the world’s eye, they would seem Utopian. Well, it is something to bring these objects out of the region of Utopia, that they may receive the recognition of practical men—and this, we think, the Society is gradually doing to admiration. Of this, the most incontestable proof may be found in the considerable addition made to their funds during the past year.

On the question of Church-rates, we are glad to see, the view of the committee is at once hopeful and sober. They anticipate success as the result of *exertion*—they place no dependence on vague promises in Parliament, or equally vague expectations out of it. Their experience has taught them that here, as elsewhere, our triumphs are usually commensurate with our deserts. We shall make no apology for quoting their emphatic language, the truth of which we also can guarantee.

The Committee now await with solicitude the issue of the debate on the second reading, on the 16th May. That issue is, they believe, dependent, primarily, not on the attitude which may be assumed by the Government, nor on the personal opinions of the members of the House of Commons; but on the determination which may be shown by the opponents of the Church-rates out of doors. The Legislature may not, and probably does not, desire the abolition; but neither does it manifest an inclination to incur the responsibility of rejecting the only proposition which is popular in the country, and against which there has yet been no hostile demonstration on the part of even the alarmists of the Church Establishment. There remain yet two weeks to increase the number of petitions, and to obtain distinct assurances of support from Representatives. It is an occasion when every rate-payer and elector opposed to Church-rates should contribute to intensify the pressure, without which even our known wishes will be disregarded; and, in the possible event of failure, it should be felt that all our present resources have been exhausted, and that only another general election will terminate the struggle.

When the Electoral Committee of the Liberation Society shall have got fairly and fully to work, when it shall have succeeded in covering the ground it proposes to occupy—Anti-State-Churchmen will have at command an engine adapted to every ecclesiastico-political purpose they can be supposed to desire. It will be their own fault if it should fail in effecting their objects. The machinery is at hand, requiring nothing but adequate steam power to make it accomplish all reasonable ends. And, for our own part, we do not doubt that adequate power will be supplied. The past history of the society may be read, we think, as a prophecy of the future. Hitherto, from the moment of its birth, it has not merely continued to exist but to grow. It has outlived some of its own mistakes—it has survived many external shocks. Its straight-forward and honest course, in season and out of season, through evil and good report, in honour and disfavour, may have offended some, but it has gained the respect of many more. Its moral influence is at this moment greater than it has ever been before. Its consistency is generally recognised—its simplicity and integrity of purpose is cheerfully allowed. It never was surrounded by a more powerful body-guard of influential friends—never was more favoured with able and zealous service—never had before it wider prospects of usefulness—never was better qualified to enter upon them with success. May it speedily realise the most sanguine hopes of its friends, as it has

already lived down the most bitter denunciations of its adversaries!

THE LAST APPEAL.

Ere another number of the *Nonconformist* has issued from the press, Sir William Clay will have moved the second reading of his Church-rate Abolition Bill in the House of Commons. One short week alone remains for out-door effort in support of the hon. baronet; and we take this last opportunity of urging such of the friends of Church-rate abolition as have delayed their petitions and communications to their representatives, to put forth all their energies. Once more we beg to reiterate the advice of the Committee of the Religious Liberation Society, to forward petitions to the members for the borough or county from which they emanate, rather than to gentlemen who may be specially identified with the cause of abolition. Thus far, the influx of petitions has scarcely equalled our expectations. The last report of the Public Petitions’ Committee, which extends up to Wednesday the 2nd instant, shows that 505 petitions, with 38,883 signatures, have been presented. Since then, 163 additional petitions have been recorded, making a total of 668. We have no doubt that many petitions have been delayed till the last moment, and trust that, during the next week, the House of Commons may have such practical demonstration of the earnestness and extent of the feeling out of doors in favour of the abolition of Church-rates, as may dispose it to give a hearty support to Sir W. Clay’s Bill on Wednesday next.

THE MILTON CLUB.

The Nonconformists of this country can now rejoice in possessing “a local habitation” as well as “a name.” The Milton Club was opened for temporary occupation on Monday last, and was inaugurated by a breakfast of some sixty friends, privately invited, who included some of the most distinguished ministers and laymen amongst Dissenters. It is not our intention on the present occasion to reiterate the great and obvious advantages of this new institution—this centre which is so well adapted to gather together for high and useful purposes the scattered strength of British Nonconformists. We wish rather to help to give publicity to the design of the committee in opening the institution for a fortnight during the May meetings. As was explained by Mr. Bateman, the indefatigable promoter of the undertaking, the Milton Club has been temporarily fitted up expressly for the convenience of Dissenters both in town and country, desirous of attending these anniversaries. With a wise liberality, the committee invite all friends of the institution, whether members or not, to avail themselves of its advantages and comforts during that interval. No restriction whatever is imposed upon the free admission of any respectable Nonconformist. Gentlemen, both in London and the provinces, may thus have an opportunity of judging for themselves how far the club is adapted to meet their particular wants, as well as to promote the public objects for which it was originated.

The club is situated on the south side of Ludgate-hill, nearly opposite the Old Bailey, and is sure of attracting attention as the only building down Ludgate-hill having a private frontage. The accommodation within is ample and comfortable, notwithstanding the hasty manner in which it has been adapted for present use. In the dining-rooms, on the ground-floor, refreshments of every description and the best quality may be obtained all day long, on reasonable terms. Its reading-room, on the same floor, is plentifully supplied with newspapers and periodicals. On the first floor is a large and handsome apartment, fitted up as a drawing-room, where friends may meet and converse without let or hindrance; and in the rear of the building a room designed for a library. To the general plan of the building, and its complete adaptation to its object, we shall advert on some future occasion. Our only object now is to give all possible publicity to

the liberality of the committee, and to express both a hope and expectation that it will be cordially and gratefully responded to.

CHURCH-RATE PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

TUESDAY.—From Plymouth, Luton, Brigstock, Blissworth, Wisbech, Ashby, Outwell (three), Worsley, Soham (three), Stoke-upon-Trent, Donington, Pisgah, Towcester, Nantwich (five), Swineshead, and Wirksworth (two).

WEDNESDAY.—From Odham, Warwick, Newport (Isle of Wight) (three), Crook (Chairman), Liverpool, Worcester, Banbury, Bristol (four), Chew Magna, Clifton, Nempnett, Westerleigh, Darlington, Carisbrooke, and Basingstoke.

THURSDAY.—From Salisbury (two), Cowling Hill, Soham, Rothwell (four), Tring, St. Neot's, Prince's Risborough (two), Devizes, Thirsk, Dewsbury (five), Horbury, Sydenham, Bristol (seven), Liverpool (two), Crosshills, Hastings, Preston, Chipping Norton, Lutterworth, Longfield, Malton, Barnard Castle and others, East Grinstead, Kildwick, Kingston-upon-Hull, Great Eversden, Pilkington, Ullesthorpe, Clare, Maldon (two), Hemel Hempstead (three), Frome, Selwood, Kelvedon, Helmdon and Culworth, Corham, Welford, Boston (three), Wantage, Pentonville, Llanover, Manorbie, Bath, Bromley, Loughton, Petworth, Glascomb, Audlem, New Basford, Fakenham, Thirsk, Shobbear, Kibworth Harcourt and Kibworth Beauchamp, Birmingham, Prickwillow, Measham, West Norfolk Baptist Association (Chairman), and Benjamin Hanbury and others.

FRIDAY.—From Newport (two), Leicester (fifteen), Arnsby, Monmouth, Redbrook, Liverpool (two), Cambridge, Aberconwy, Cardiff, Bolton-le-Moors (six), Petersfield, Farnworth, Gravesend, Wisbech, Wallasey, Brecknock, Merthyr Tydfil, Llanbadarnfaur, Bradford, Devonport, Wakefield, and Chichester.

MONDAY.—From Chelmsford, Godmanchester (two), Bradford (five), Borough Green, Association of Particular Baptists in Glamorganshire (Moderator), Liverpool (four), Warwick, Carlisle, Wigan, Dundry, Huntingdon, Stoke Newington, Bishop Stortford, Pentonville, March (three), Wisbech (two), Warrington, Nuneaton, Longparish, Nottingham, Beaufort Ironworks, Halstead, Boston, Stroud, Bradbourne, Minster, and Smarden, to lie on the table.

OUR CHURCH-RATE RECORD.

CHURCH-RATE SEIZURE, ABINGDON.—On Thursday last, two valuable table-lamps, worth 4*l.*, the property of the Rev. R. H. Marten, Baptist Minister, were seized for the payment of a Church-rate. At the same time, a drawing-room table and easy chair, value 5*l.*, from Rev. S. Lepine, Independent Minister; and also a keg of brandy and four tins of sugar from the shop of Mr. A. A. Parsons. Great excitement was occasioned in the town by these ecclesiastical robberies. We understand they are only a first instalment of Mother Church's good-will towards her refractory children.

GRAVESEND.—On Thursday last occurred the termination of a struggle which has continued for four years in this parish. It was commenced, under circumstances of little encouragement, by a few earnest individuals determining to resist the payment of Church-rates, even to the spoiling of their goods, and to spare no opportunity of opposing the rate in vestry and of informing the public mind on the subject. Year by year they have gained considerably in strength, and at length the feeble minority has been converted into a majority too strong to admit of the probability of another Church-rate being attempted in the parish. Meanwhile, the neighbouring parish of Milton has anticipated the decision of Gravesend, and successfully resisted the attempts to impose a rate. These conclusions have been arrived at without bitterness and alienation, and at the recent vestry meeting of the Gravesend parish, the numbers being two to one against the rate, Churchmen and Dissenters were seen in friendly co-operation to raise by free contributions the sum necessary for the repair of the parish church.

HACKNEY.—A meeting was held in this district on Friday last, to consider the Bill now before Parliament for the abolition of Church-rates. The hall was crowded by a large body of respectable inhabitants, Churchmen and Dissenters, one of the churchwardens being present. Among others, there were present, Messrs. George Offor, Stephen, Olding, Henry Bateman, E. Pye Smith, T. Cleave, Chas. Reed, R. Burn, W. Wickham, T. Curwen, George Osburn, James Powell, Angus, Jennings, and Conrad Loddige. Samuel Morley, Esq., of Stamford-hill, was called to the chair, and briefly explained the object of the meeting.—Mr. George Offor then submitted a series of resolutions upon the subject, and gave an experience of forty years as to the evils of the law which gave power to enforce and distrain rates for the support of religious worship in the Church.—Mr. Henry Bateman seconded the resolutions, which were carried unanimously.—Mr. Charles Reed moved a petition embodying the resolutions.—Mr. Cleave seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; and the chairman was requested to sign the petition on behalf of the meeting.

NO CHURCH-RATE, NO PAVING-RATE.—The churchwardens of several parishes in Colchester have returned to the Commissioners for Paving and Light-

ing, the following answer to the demand for a paving-rate: "As we have been unable to make a Church-rate, we have no funds to pay the paving-rate." As this is a tax that must be made, and which no parishioner disputes the legality of, the vestries of the parishes referred to would not object to make a rate for that purpose, but they will not submit to be taxed for the payment of expenses incidental to religious services from which they conscientiously dissent.

PUBLIC MEETING AT GRAVESEND.—A public meeting of the inhabitants, very numerously attended, was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening last, to adopt petitions to Parliament in favour of Sir Wm. Clay's bill for the abolition of Church-rates. The audience and speakers consisted about in equal parts of Churchmen and Dissenters. J. J. Ridge, Esq., M.D., was in the chair, and J. Saddington, Esq., J.P., Robert Oakes, Esq., J.P., H. W. Davison, Esq., Rev. E. S. Pryce, Mr. Alderman West, and Mr. G. J. Baynes, took part in the proceedings. Petitions to both Houses were unanimously adopted.

ST. LEONARD'S, COLCHESTER.—Some time since the vestry of this parish was called together to make a rate, when the proposal to adjourn the meeting was ignored by the Rector, who, as chairman, refused to put the motion, and the rate was declared to be carried. Under these circumstances, the dissentients refused to pay the rate, and upon one of them being summoned before the magistrates, the Bench declared they had no jurisdiction in the matter. The Church party have declined carrying the case to the Ecclesiastical Court, and the Rector has affixed the following notice to the Church door:

A wrong impression having gone abroad that the present Church-rate is illegal, this is to give notice, that the magistrates have only declared that they have no power to decide the question, which should be tried in the Ecclesiastical Court. The Church-rate, therefore, being not by any means declared illegal, it has been resolved that the payment of this moderate and most just demand shall be regarded as a test of the uprightness and Christian principle of the several rate-payers of the parish.

April 14, 1855. FRANCIS CURTIS, Rector.

We understand that the rector's call has met with a very feeble response. Churchmen refuse to pay until the Dissenters have paid; the latter are determined not to pay at all; and the effect will be, if the former remain obstinate, too, that no rate will be collected.

UNLORDING A BISHOP.—A few weeks since the Rev. Dr. Vidal, Bishop of Sierra Leone, died, and the Government offered the see to the Rev. T. W. Weeks, incumbent of St. Thomas's Church, Lambeth. The reverend gentleman intimated his willingness to accept the appointment upon one condition—namely, that his letters patent should not confer upon him any right or claim to be called "My Lord," as is the case with all the other colonial prelates. This somewhat singular request has been complied with by the Government, and the new Bishop's designation will be not "My Lord," or "My Lord Bishop," but "Right Reverend Sir."

Religious Intelligence.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, PUDSEY.—The Rev. James Hilliard, late minister at the above place of worship, sent in his resignation to the members of the Church at their meeting on Wednesday evening week. The reasons which have determined the reverend gentleman to take this step he states to be a change in his views on the subject of baptism, both as regards the subject suitable for, and the proper administration of that ordinance. After a careful, deliberate, and prayerful review of the subject, Mr. Hilliard has arrived at the conclusion that scriptural baptism is that practised by Evangelical Pseudo-Baptists.

BLACKBURN.—The Rev. W. Barker is delivering a series of lectures to the working-classes of this town, on Sabbath afternoons. Two have already been given on "The Working Man's Home and Heart," and, "Rich and Poor." We understand that considerable interest is excited, and the attendance has been most encouraging.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.—The Rev. Frederick Stephens has resigned the pastoral charge in connexion with Greenfield Independent Chapel. His labours in this town will terminate with the month of June next.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WEST HARTLEPOOL.—The interesting ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a new church for the members of the Protestant Dissenting Congregational body of Christians in this town, took place with the usual services on Friday afternoon last. The interest of the occasion was increased by the presence of the Rev. Thomas Binney, of London, who commenced the services of the day by preaching in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Lynn-street, from Phillips ii., 14, 16. After the service a collection in aid of the building fund was taken, and between 12*l.* and 13*l.* were subscribed. The congregation then proceeded to the site of the new building, which is in a field about one hundred yards to the eastward of Christ Church. After singing and prayer, a bottle containing a specimen of each of the current coins of the realm, together with copies of two or three publications, and a parchment containing an inscription, was deposited in a cavity of the stone, and covered with an iron plate. The interesting ceremony of laying the stone was then performed by Mr. Binney, who afterwards ascended the block and addressed the assembly in a very fervent manner. Prayer was then offered up by the Rev. R. W. M'All, of Sunderland, and an adjournment was made to the Athenaeum, in the long room of which about 400 persons partook of tea, gratuitously provided for the occasion. After

the tables were cleared, a social meeting was held, and interesting addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Binney, Mr. M'All, and others. The church is to be built in the Gothic style of architecture, and to contain accommodation for about 800 people.—*Newcastle Guardian.*

REGENT'S-PARK.—On Tuesday, the Diorama, Regent's-park, was opened as a chapel for Divine worship in connexion with the Baptist body, having been rented for that purpose by the magnificence of Sir Morton Peto, Bart., at a cost of 10*l.* per week, including the purchase of the building. The building has been remodelled in a very handsome manner, and is calculated to seat 1,800. The Rev. W. Brock, in the morning, preached in the new edifice, after which the company adjourned to the Fitzroy-rooms, where a dinner was partaken of. Sir Morton Peto presided. The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured, the Chairman rose, and in the course of his speech—referring to the opening of Bloomsbury Chapel—said, on the occasion of that meeting, they would remember that he stated that it was his intention to leave one-third of the cost of the building to be defrayed by the friends, and he was happy to say, that the debt had been extinguished; that Bloomsbury Chapel was now free from debt, had been put in trust, and was the property of the denomination. That trust-deed would serve as a model for its liberality, because it bound the Church to nothing but the preaching of Christian truth. He had told the Church there that, as soon as the debt was paid off, he intended to commence another Christian enterprise, and they had seen the result that day. He intended to leave one-third of the cost of the chapel they had seen opened to be defrayed by the congregation, and as soon as that was accomplished he intended to commence another chapel. The Rev. Mr. Landells, pastor of the Church to be formed, the Rev. W. Brock, the Rev. Dr. Leitchell, the Rev. T. Binney, and others then addressed the meeting. Tea was afterwards served, and the proceedings concluded with a sermon in the evening, from the Rev. S. Martin, when the attendance was overflowing.

RECOGNITION SERVICE AT PRESTON.—On Wednesday evening, an interesting service was held at Cannon-street Chapel, in recognition of the settlement of the Rev. Thomas Davies, late of York-road, London, as the pastor. After singing, a portion of the Scriptures was read, and prayer offered by the Rev. H. slate. The Rev. Dr. Halley, of Manchester, delivered a discourse upon the principles of Congregationalism and the duties of the pastor, which was no less remarkable for its liberality than it was logical in reasoning and eloquent in its enforcement of great principles, and its elucidation of pastoral duties. Special prayer was offered by the Rev. J. Sugden, B.A., of Lancaster; and an address was delivered by the Rev. A. Fraser, M.A., of Blackburn, on "The Relation of the People to the Pastor." The Revs. G. Scott, W. Jackson, T. Newton, F. Bugby, C. M. Davies (Kirkham), and J. Bliss (Leyland), were also present, and some of them aided in the service, in which deep interest was manifested by a large congregation.—*Preston Chronicle.*

THE SUFFOLK CONGREGATIONAL UNION held its spring meeting at Beccles, on the 1st and 2nd inst. The Rev. H. More, of Lowestoft, preached the introductory sermon on Tuesday evening. The Rev. John Browne, B.A., Wrentham, preached the Union sermon on Wednesday morning, and the Revs. D. T. Carnion, of Halesworth, and C. Wills M.A., of Bungay, delivered addresses in the evening. At the business meeting, petitions in support of Sir W. Clay's bill for the total abolition of Church-rates, the repeal of the Maynooth Endowment, and the alteration of the marriage law, and a memorial to Lord Palmerston against the recent proclamation for a day of solemn fast, &c. were adopted and ordered to be signed by the chairman. The meeting also passed resolutions in favour of the English Congregational Chapel Building Society, and of the Congregational Pastors' Insurance Aid Society.

THE GLASGOW CALL TO DR. CANDLISH.—At a meeting of the congregation of Free St. George's, the Rev. Dr. Candlish intimated his intention to decline the call from Renfield-street Church, Glasgow.—*Edinburgh Advertiser.*

WINCHMORE HILL, MIDDLESEX.—The Rev. J. H. Richards, of Rotherham College, having preached, for some months, to the Independent Church and congregation in this place, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Church to become their pastor; and commenced his stated ministry in January. There is still a sum of 562*l.* remainder of the building debt, on the chapel, and efforts are being made for its liquidation.

Anniversary Meetings.

THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION SOCIETY.

The Annual Meetings of the Society for Liberating Religion from State Patronage and Control, were held on Wednesday last in London. The council of the society met in the morning at Radley's Hotel, when members from all parts of the country were present.

W. EDWARDS, Esq., the Treasurer, took the chair shortly after twelve o'clock, and commenced his address, by stating that the Executive had this year sent a copy of their Report to the members of the Council prior to the meeting, that they might be better prepared to discuss the important topics to which it adverted. Commenting on those topics, he said, he thought that the step lately taken towards abolishing tests at the Universities, might be regarded as an important instalment of their rights. (Hear.) The Church-rate question was also ripe for settlement, and even the House of Lords might be made to yield to the expressed will of the public. Respecting the Maynooth Endowment, he

said, that irrespective of individual opinions, in respect to Roman Catholicism, the Executive Committee joined in supporting the proposal for its withdrawal on a broad basis of action—that of hostility to all State endowments—(hear)—and because success would give them an important vantage-ground. The Parliamentary operations of the society might, he thought, be regarded with great satisfaction—(cheers)—but they had required, and still would require, the exercise of much discretion. (Hear.) In holding, as they had lately done, small and private meetings for business purposes, the committee had adopted a right course, as shown by the increase in the number of the society's friends, and in the fact, that its income had never been so large as during the past year. (Cheers.) They, however, had not reached the point at which they were aiming, and must yet exert themselves to increase the society's resources. He, in conclusion, stated that Mr. Kingsley, who had for so many years well served the society as its lecturer, had resigned his office, and explained the circumstances which had prevented the carrying out of the committee's plans at Manchester.

It was then moved and resolved, that the Report should be considered as read; but we insert it here for the information of our readers.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL.—The Executive Committee meet you to-day at the close of a year marked by events affecting, in a more than ordinary degree, the movement entrusted to their guidance. While the continuance of a destructive war has diverted public attention from political reform, ecclesiastical questions have forced themselves to an unusual extent on the notice of Parliament; and it has providentially occurred that the objects aimed at by this institution have been more perceptibly advanced than in years apparently more auspicious. Hence the unremitting labours of the committee have not been unrewarded; and, with increased responsibility, they have also had a consciousness of growing strength.

ORGANISATION AND FUNDS.

Adhering to the plan adopted after the last Conference, they have continued to hold private, in preference to public, meetings, at which they have sought to secure the attendance of influential gentlemen of the locality. On these occasions deputations have submitted a full statement of the society's recent and projected operations, and the result has been, in almost all cases, the accession of new friends, a more thorough appreciation of the society's work, improved local organisation, and an increase of pecuniary support. From the time occupied in making careful arrangements, several districts have not been visited, but, judging from the response already made to their appeals, the increase in the number of their correspondents, and the manifestation of an increased disposition to act on their suggestions, the committee believe that perseverance in such efforts will make their organisation strong in the confidence and co-operation of the friends of free religion in every part of the country.

Although the treasurer will have the satisfaction of reporting a considerable increase in the society's income, and a general improvement in its financial position, the committee greatly regret that the painful circumstances of the times have prevented the realisation of the design of raising the annual income to £5,000. That which appeared practicable in a time of peace and commercial prosperity, has been found unattainable during a season of increased taxation, high prices, and severe distress; and the committee have been reluctantly obliged to postpone applications for subscriptions in towns to which they naturally looked for substantial assistance; while, in other cases, the amounts received are represented as being but an earnest of larger contributions which will follow a revival of industrial activity. They, however, venture strongly to urge, that the present is a period in the society's history when, if needful, sacrifices should be made to augment its efficiency and widen the sphere of its usefulness; and, as it is already greatly indebted to the special liberality of a comparatively few, so they cherish the hope of receiving adequate support from all its friends, both now, and in circumstances of greater difficulty, in which the country may yet be placed.

PARLIAMENTARY OPERATIONS.

In their last report the committee described the arrangements made for carrying on with increased vigour the society's parliamentary operations. Of the legislative topics there brought under your notice, there were then under discussion, bills for improving the administration of Church revenues, and for removing the alleged disabilities of Episcopalians in the colonies—the demand of Dissenters to be admitted to the University of Oxford—and the anticipated measures for settling the question of Church-rates. The first of these—the bill of the Marquis of Blandford—was read a second time, on the understanding that it should not be further proceeded with. Re-introduced this year, it has reached the same stage, its further progress being now conditional on the appearance of certain Ecclesiastical Reports. As its provisions will be jealously scrutinised, both by the opponents of all Church Reform, and those who object to placing new funds in the hands of authorities in whom no confidence is reposed, the passing of the bill is likely to be indefinitely delayed. The Colonial Clergy Disabilities Bill was abandoned, from the inability of its authors to satisfy the House of Commons as to its necessity and probable effect, and no fresh experiment of a similar kind has been made in the present session.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.

The success of the attempt to throw open the University of Oxford to the entire community, without reference to creed, has made the past year memorable, not only in the society's history, but in the modern annals of Nonconformity. The unanimity with which, during nearly four months of activity, public opinion had been expressed in favour of the proposal, justified the committee in calculating upon a result which they had desired rather than anticipated at the commencement of their proceedings, but they were not prepared for so decisive a victory as that involved in a majority of ninety-one, obtained in spite of the Government and the Opposition, nor for so ready an acquiescence on the part of the Lords in the concession of the House of Commons.

But, while rejoicing at having secured so important an instalment of long-withheld rights, they would have it borne in mind that much remains to be accomplished, to

place Churchmen and Dissenters on a footing of equality in respect to educational endowments and privileges of a national character. Great as was the preponderance of sentiment in favour of abolishing the Matriculation Test, the House of Commons refused, though by a small majority, to admit Dissenters to the higher honours of the University, and that, from an avowed unwillingness to let them share in its government and more substantial advantages. The House of Lords also thought fit to depreciate even the value of the Bachelor's Degree, by inserting a proviso enforcing subscription wherever it had previously been required as a qualification for office, and thereby continuing the exclusion of Dissenters from the masterships of grammar and other public schools.

As a preliminary means of obtaining from the Legislature further concessions, the committee concurred in the proposal of Mr. Heywood to move for a select committee this session, to inquire into the best mode of rendering the public schools of the country more available for supplying its educational wants. They accordingly exerted themselves in support of the motion for that purpose, and hoped for a favourable issue; but, to their surprise and regret, Mr. Heywood yielded to the suggestion of the Government to deal with the subject by means of a bill, and refrained from pressing his motion to a division. With a view to bringing in a bill, that gentleman subsequently proposed the consideration of such clauses of the Act of Uniformity as impose religious tests in educational institutions, and of other regulations preventing the full enjoyment of their advantages; but the suggestions of the Government were again unwisely acceded to, the motion being negative without a division.

A bill for the reform of the University of Cambridge is now before Parliament, and the committee find that, so far as this aspect of the subject is concerned, the liberality of its provisions is bounded by the enactments extorted from the Legislature in the passing of the Oxford Bill. With this minimum of improvement the Nonconformist body, in their judgment, ought not to be satisfied. The reasoning which has prevailed to establish their right to admission to the National Universities, is allowed by their opponents to be as conclusive in favour of their claim to participate in all the privileges which those Universities can confer; while the fact that the doors of Cambridge are already open to them, renders that which was of value in respect to Oxford too paltry for acceptance in the case of the more liberal University. The committee therefore will strive to insert a clause for the entire abolition of religious tests, as also to expunge the disqualifying clause, copied from the Oxford Act, to which they have referred. With this view they hope that the members of the House of Commons who acknowledge the soundness of the principle for which Dissenters are now contending, will be urged by their constituents fearlessly to apply that principle to the present measure. They, however, fear that the present House of Commons will not be induced to advance further in the direction now indicated, and that the Universities, and grammar and other public schools, will not be wrested from the Church Establishment until such a change has been imperatively demanded at the hustings from every professedly liberal candidate.

CHURCH-RATES.

On the subject of Church-rates the committee can speak in more sanguine terms than they were able to do a year ago. As they then anticipated would be the case, the Government has produced no measure of its own to set at rest a question, the early settlement of which it nevertheless admits to be matter of absolute necessity. That of Mr. Packe, last session, would have perpetuated Church-rates in an aggravated form by compelling all parties to pay for the repairs of the fabrics, and exempting from a "furniture and services" rate only attendants at Dissenting chapels, who might choose to make a declaration of their Dissent, to be attested by the oaths of their ministers or two of their fellow-worshippers! Such a proposal was not likely to find favour in any quarter, and the bill being speedily withdrawn, there remained only the simple but decisive measure of Sir W. Clay, absolutely abolishing Church-rates, except where they had been legally pledged as a security for the repayment of loans. Struggled over by the Government at the first stage, it was yet introduced by a considerable majority; and, encouraged by such a reception, the committee increased their exertions to promote petitions in its favour, and to bring the influence of electors to bear upon the votes of members on the second reading. To their surprise and gratification, the combined force of the Government and the Opposition failed to secure a larger majority against the Bill than twenty-two votes—and that in a House of four hundred members, and in the absence of a considerable number of members whose votes had been recorded against Church-rates in previous and less critical divisions. The debate on this bill afforded, in the estimation of the committee, indisputable evidence of the strength of the position now occupied by the Voluntary party. The admission of Lord John Russell that the objections urged against Church-rates apply equally to a Church Establishment—the frank admission of Mr. Gladstone that those objections are "irresistible," with the suggestion that the exaction should be continued in places where it had been patiently submitted to—and the manly avowal of Lord Stanley, that he had abandoned his own suggested scheme of compromise, in the belief that Parliament has no option but to bow to the decision of the country in the adoption of the Voluntary principle—these and similar occurrences unmistakably indicate the approaching abandonment of taxation for ecclesiastical purposes.

At the commencement of the present year, the committee arranged with Sir William Clay for the re-introduction of his bill, with the addition of provisions adapted to meet the changed circumstances in which it will place the members of the Church of England. Believing it to be possible to carry the measure during this session, they have sought to impress upon their friends the necessity for not only renewing but increasing the exertions made last year, and have furnished detailed information and practical suggestions for eliciting the fullest expression of opinion in the parish vestry, through the public press, and within the walls of Parliament. The time has not come for a fuller statement upon these points, nor for attempts to estimate what has been, or is likely to be, accomplished, as the result of such efforts. But there is significance in the fact, that not only has the bill been again introduced by a majority of two to one, and in a larger House, but the Government, and the whole Liberal party, have thus far given it their support. The care required in the framing of the clauses to which reference has been made, lest they should, in any degree, infringe the principles to which

the committee of this society must scrupulously adhere, has delayed the printing of the bill; but it being now in the hands of the public, the committee trust that it will be found to have added all that can be demanded by the Nonconformist, and, at the same time, to have met the reasonable requirements of members of the Church of England who have ceased to regard the retention of an ecclesiastical impost as essential to the stability of their Church.

The committee now await with solicitude the issue of the debate on the second reading, on the 16th May. That issue is, they believe, dependent, primarily, not on the attitude which may be assumed by the Government, nor on the personal opinions of the members of the House of Commons, but on the determination which may be shown by the opponents of Church-rates out of doors. The Legislature may not, and probably does not, desire their abolition; but neither does it manifest an inclination to incur the responsibility of rejecting the only proposition which is popular in the country, and against which there has yet been no hostile demonstration on the part of even the alarmists of the Church Establishment. There remain yet two weeks to increase the number of petitions, and to obtain distinct assurances of support from representatives. It is an occasion when every rate-payer and elector opposed to Church-rates should contribute to intensify the pressure, without which even our known wishes will be disregarded; and in the possible event of failure, it should be felt that all our present resources have been exhausted, and that only another general election will terminate the struggle.

The committee refer with pleasure to the fact that local resistance to Church-rates continues to extend, and that, stimulated by the suggestion of Mr. Gladstone, the inhabitants of small towns and even villages have carried their opposition to a poll—in many instances with unexpected success, and in all to the advancement of principles destined to effect changes of a graver kind. To afford facilities for effectively conducting these parochial contests, the committee have issued a new assortment of tracts and bills adapted to the present position of the question, and have also employed a competent professional gentleman to prepare a "Vestryman's Guide," giving, in an authoritative shape, information which has, year by year, been increasingly in request. They believe that this work will be of considerable value to those who, in the face of many difficulties, are manfully asserting their parochial rights.

REGIUM DONUM AND MAYNOOTH GRANT.

The committee have again objected to the continuance of the Parliamentary grant to Irish Presbyterians, known as the *Regium Donum*; Mr. Bright having, at their request, moved for the reduction of the amount, with a view to prevent any further increase. Though unsuccessful in the division, Mr. Bright demonstrated the mischievous working of the grant, in repressing the liberality of the wealthiest religious body in Ireland, and with great effect demanded to know on what principle Irish Presbyterians could claim State support, in the absence of which other Dissenting bodies maintain a more vigorous existence. His speech on the occasion having been published by the committee, for circulation in Ireland, there ensued a lengthened correspondence between Dr. Wilson, of Belfast, and Mr. Bright, and between Dr. Wilson and Dr. Foster, in which, while the accuracy of some of the statements made in the debate was impugned—though not very successfully—the material fact was not denied, that the recipients of the *Donum* receive but miserably small sums from their congregations. The subsequent publication of a parliamentary return, moved for by Mr. Hadfield, who has devoted much time to the subject, has furnished additional information of the same conclusive character, and shows that the requisitions of the Government in distributing the grant are not complied with, and that even the pittance of 35*l.* per annum is in many cases partially withheld by those who insist that their pastors shall be stipendiaries of the State.

But the committee anticipate less from direct attacks upon this particular grant, than from a movement aimed at the endowment enjoyed by another religious body in Ireland. The narrowness of the majority which, last session, defeated Mr. Spooner's unexpected proposal to replace the Maynooth grant in the annual estimates, may be regarded as foreshadowing an event which will materially change the position of ecclesiastical parties in Ireland—an event, the probability of which is increased by the expressed opinion of an influential Roman Catholic (Mr. Lucas, M.P.), in favour of a renunciation of all parliamentary grants, and a junction with the supporters of the Voluntary principle in hostility to the Irish Church.

The appearance of the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of Maynooth College has led to the resumption of agitation on the subject, with the specific object of procuring the repeal of the Act of 1845, increasing the grant and placing it on the Consolidated Fund. The committee have not hesitated in deciding that such a proposal should have their support. To the Act of 1845 they were strenuously opposed, and they have since repeatedly denounced the policy on which it was based, and their determination to seek its repeal when circumstances should favour the attempt. But they now, as they have always done, rest their opposition to this endowment on grounds equally applicable to the endowments and grants enjoyed by other ecclesiastical bodies. As they have endeavoured to abolish the Ministers' Money of the Episcopalian and the *Regium Donum* of the Presbyterian, as they now ask for the withdrawal of the grant to the Roman Catholic. Their basis of action is, therefore, unsectarian and scrupulously just; and so long as they are careful to enunciate their own distinctive principle, they deem it right to unite with others aiming at the same object, though influenced by different motives. As the Establishment principle, in the triple form in which it exists in Ireland, cannot be successfully assailed in its entirety, the only practical course is an assault on its weakest point. The Irish Roman Catholic party too well understand and respect the singleness of purpose which characterises our movement, to suspect us of intolerance, while they may be reconciled to the loss of their endowment by the assurance, that the recoil of the blow aimed at them will shake the ecclesiastical system from which they have been the severest sufferers. For the committee entertain the confident expectation, that the repeal of the Maynooth Act will weaken the principle of Church and State connexion throughout the three kingdoms. It having been the design of that Act to prolong the existence of the Irish Church Establishment, its repeal will combine against it all the elements of opposition; and the success

the liberality of the committee, and to express both a hope and expectation that it will be cordially and gratefully responded to.

CHURCH-RATE PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

TUESDAY.—From Plymouth, Luton, Brigstock, Blisworth, Wisbech, Ashby, Outwell (three), Worstead, Soham (three), Stoke-upon-Trent, Donington, Pisgah, Towcester, Nantwich (five), Swineshead, and Wirksworth (two).

WEDNESDAY.—From Odham, Warwick, Newport (Isle of Wight) (three), Crook (Chairman), Liverpool, Worcester, Banbury, Bristol (four), Chew Magna, Clifton, Nemppett, Westerleigh, Darlington, Carisbrooke, and Basingstoke.

THURSDAY.—From Salisbury (two), Cowling Hill, Soham, Rothwell (four), Tring, St. Neot's, Prince's Risboro' (two), Devizes, Thirsk, Dewsbury (five), Horbury, Sydenham, Bristol (seven), Liverpool (two), Crosshills, Hastings, Preston, Chipping Norton, Lutterworth, Longfield, Malton, Barnard, Greg and others, East Grinstead, Kildwick, Kingston-upon-Hull, Great Eversden, Pilkington, Ullesthorpe, Clare, Maldon (two), Hemel Hempsted (three), Frome, Selwood, Kelvedon, Helmdon and Culworth, Corsham, Welford, Boston (three), Wantage, Pentonville, Llanover, Manor, Bath, Bromley, Loughton, Petworth, Glascomb, Audlem, New Basford, Fakenham, Thirsk, Shebbear, Kibworth Harcourt and Kibworth Beauchamp, Birmingham, Prickwillow, Measham, West Norfolk Baptist Association (Chairman), and Benjamin Hanbury and others.

FRIDAY.—From Newport (two), Leicester (fifteen), Arnside, Monmouth, Redbrook, Liverpool (two), Cambridge, Abercanaid, Cardiff, Bolton-le-Moors (six), Petersfield, Farnworth, Gravesend, Wisbech, Walsoken, Brecknock, Merthyr Tydfil, Llanbadarnfaur, Bradford, Devonport, Wakefield, and Chichester.

MONDAY.—From Chelmsford, Godmanchester (two), Bradford (five), Borough Green, Association of Particular Baptists in Glamorganshire (Moderator), Liverpool (four), Warwick, Carlisle, Wigan, Dundry, Huntingdon, Stoke Newington, Bishop Stortford, Pentonville, March (three), Wisbech (two), Warrington, Nuneaton, Longparish, Nottingham, Beaufort Ironworks, Halstead, Boston, Stroud, Bradbourne, Minster, and Smarden, to lie on the table.

OUR CHURCH-RATE RECORD.

CHURCH-RATE SEIZURE, ABINGDON.—On Thursday last, two valuable table-lamps, worth 4*l.*, the property of the Rev. R. H. Marten, Baptist Minister, were seized for the payment of a Church-rate. At the same time, a drawing-room table and easy chair, value 5*l.*, from Rev. S. Lepine, Independent Minister; and also a keg of brandy and four titlers of sugar from the shop of Mr. A. A. Parsons. Great excitement was occasioned in the town by these ecclesiastical robberies. We understand they are only a first instalment of Mother Church's good-will towards her refractory children.

GRAVESEND.—On Thursday last occurred the termination of a struggle which has continued for four years in this parish. It was commenced, under circumstances of little encouragement, by a few earnest individuals determining to resist the payment of Church-rates, even to the spoiling of their goods, and to spare no opportunity of opposing the rate in vestry and of informing the public mind on the subject. Year by year they have gained considerably in strength, and at length the feeble minority has been converted into a majority too strong to admit of the probability of another Church-rate being attempted in the parish. Meanwhile, the neighbouring parish of Milton has anticipated the decision of Gravesend, and successfully resisted the attempts to impose a rate. These conclusions have been arrived at without bitterness and alienation, and at the recent vestry meeting of the Gravesend parish, the numbers being two to one against the rate, Churchmen and Dissenters were seen in friendly co-operation to raise by free contributions the sum necessary for the repair of the parish church.

HACKNEY.—A meeting was held in this district on Friday last, to consider the Bill now before Parliament for the abolition of Church-rates. The hall was crowded by a large body of respectable inhabitants, Churchmen and Dissenters, one of the churchwardens being present. Among others, there were present, Messrs. George Offor, Stephen, Olding, Henry Bateman, E. Pye Smith, T. Cennell, Chas. Reed, R. Burn, W. Wickham, T. Curwen, George Osburn, James Powell, Angus, Jennings, and Conrad Lodidge. Samuel Morley, Esq., of Stamford-hill, was called to the chair, and briefly explained the object of the meeting.—Mr. George Offor then submitted a series of resolutions upon the subject, and gave an experience of forty years as to the evils of the law which gave power to enforce and distraint rates for the support of religious worship in the Church.—Mr. Henry Bateman seconded the resolutions, which were carried unanimously.—Mr. Charles Reed moved a petition embodying the resolutions.—Mr. Cennell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; and the chairman was requested to sign the petition on behalf of the meeting.

NO CHURCH-RATE, NO PAVING-RATE.—The churchwardens of several parishes in Colchester have returned to the Commissioners for Paving and Light-

ing, the following answer to the demand for a paving-rate: "As we have been unable to make a Church-rate, we have no funds to pay the paving-rate." As this is a tax that must be made, and which no parishioner disputes the legality of, the vestries of the parishes referred to would not object to make a rate for that purpose, but they will not submit to be taxed for the payment of expenses incidental to religious services from which they conscientiously dissent.

PUBLIC MEETING AT GRAVESEND.—A public meeting of the inhabitants, very numerously attended, was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening last, to adopt petitions to Parliament in favour of Sir Wm. Clay's bill for the abolition of Church-rates. The audience and speakers consisted about in equal parts of Churchmen and Dissenters. J. J. Ridge, Esq., M.D., was in the chair, and J. Saddington, Esq., J.P., Robert Oakes, Esq., J.P., H. W. Davison, Esq., Rev. E. S. Pryce, Mr. Alderman West, and Mr. G. J. Baynes, took part in the proceedings. Petitions to both Houses were unanimously adopted.

ST. LEONARD'S, COLCHESTER.—Some time since the vestry of this parish was called together to make a rate, when the proposal to adjourn the meeting was ignored by the Rector, who, as chairman, refused to put the motion, and the rate was declared to be carried. Under these circumstances, the dissentients refused to pay the rate, and upon one of them being summoned before the magistrates, the Bench declared they had no jurisdiction in the matter. The Church party have declined carrying the case to the Ecclesiastical Court, and the Rector has affixed the following notice to the Church door:

A wrong impression having gone abroad that the present Church-rate is illegal, this is to give notice, that the magistrates have only declared that they have no power to decide the question, which should be tried in the Ecclesiastical Court. The Church-rate, therefore, being not by any means declared illegal, it has been resolved that the payment of this moderate and most just demand shall be regarded as a test of the uprightness and Christian principle of the several rate-payers of the parish.

April 14, 1855. FRANCIS CURTIS, Rector.
We understand that the rector's call has met with a very feeble response. Churchmen refuse to pay until the Dissenters have paid; the latter are determined not to pay at all; and the effect will be, if the former remain obstinate, too, that no rate will be collected.

UNLORDING A BISHOP.—A few weeks since the Rev. Dr. Vidal, Bishop of Sierra Leone, died, and the Government offered the see to the Rev. T. W. Weeks, incumbent of St. Thomas's Church, Lambeth. The reverend gentleman intimated his willingness to accept the appointment upon one condition—namely, that his letters patent should not confer upon him any right or claim to be called "My Lord," as is the case with all the other colonial prelates. This somewhat singular request has been complied with by the Government, and the new Bishop's designation will be not "My Lord," or "My Lord Bishop," but "Right Reverend Sir."

Religious Intelligence.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, PUDSEY.—The Rev. James Hilliard, late minister at the above place of worship, sent in his resignation to the members of the Church at their meeting on Wednesday evening week. The reasons which have determined the reverend gentleman to take this step he states to be a change in his views on the subject of baptism, both as regards the subject suitable for, and the proper administration of, that ordinance. After a careful, deliberate, and prayerful review of the subject, Mr. Hilliard has arrived at the conclusion that scriptural baptism is that practised by Evangelical Pædo-Baptists.

BLACKBURN.—The Rev. W. Barker is delivering a series of lectures to the working-classes of this town, on Sabbath afternoons. Two have already been given on "The Working Man's Home and Heart," and, "Rich and Poor." We understand that considerable interest is excited, and the attendance has been most encouraging.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.—The Rev. Frederick Stephens has resigned the pastoral charge in connexion with Greenfield Independent Chapel. His labours in this town will terminate with the month of June next.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WEST HARTLEPOOL.—The interesting ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a new church for the members of the Protestant Dissenting Congregational body of Christians in this town, took place with the usual services on Friday afternoon last. The interest of the occasion was increased by the presence of the Rev. Thomas Binney, of London, who commenced the services of the day by preaching in the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Lynn-street, from Phillips ii, 14, 16. After the service a collection in aid of the building fund was taken, and between 12*l.* and 13*l.* were subscribed. The congregation then proceeded to the site of the new building, which is in a field about one hundred yards to the eastward of Christ Church. After singing and prayer, a bottle containing a specimen of each of the current coins of the realm, together with copies of two or three publications, and a parchment containing an inscription, was deposited in a cavity of the stone, and covered with an iron plate. The interesting ceremony of laying the stone was then performed by Mr. Binney, who afterwards ascended the block and addressed the assembly in a very fervent manner. Prayer was then offered up by the Rev. R. W. M'All, of Sunderland, and an adjournment was made to the Athenæum, in the long room of which about 400 persons partook of tea, gratuitously provided for the occasion. After

the tables were cleared, a social meeting was held, and interesting addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Binney, Mr. M'All, and others. The church is to be built in the Gothic style of architecture, and to contain accommodation for about 800 people.—*Newcastle Guardian.*

REGENT'S-PARK.—On Tuesday, the Diorama, Regent's-park, was opened as a chapel for Divine worship in connexion with the Baptist body, having been refused for that purpose by the magnificence of Sir Morton Peto, Bart., at a cost of 18,000*l.*, including the purchase of the building. The building has been remodelled in a very handsome manner, and is calculated to seat 1,800. The Rev. W. Brock, in the morning, preached in the new edifice, after which the company adjourned to the Fitzroy-rooms, where a dinner was partaken of. Sir Morton Peto presided. The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured, the Chairman rose, and in the course of his speech—referring to the opening of Bloomsbury Chapel—said, on the occasion of that meeting, they would remember that he stated that it was his intention to leave one-third of the cost of the building to be defrayed by the friends, and he was happy to say, that the debt had been extinguished; that Bloomsbury Chapel was now free from debt, had been put in trust, and was the property of the denomination. That trust-deed would serve as a model for its liberality, because it bound the Church to nothing but the preaching of Christian truth. He had told the Church there that, so soon as the debt was paid off, he intended to commence another Christian enterprise, and they had seen the result that day. He intended to leave one-third of the cost of the chapel they had seen opened to be defrayed by the congregation, and as soon as that was accomplished he intended to commence another chapel. The Rev. Mr. Landells, pastor of the Church to be formed, the Rev. W. Brock, the Rev. Dr. Leifchild, the Rev. T. Binney, and others then addressed the meeting. Tea was afterwards served, and the proceedings concluded with a sermon in the evening, from the Rev. S. Martin, when the attendance was overflowing.

RECOGNITION SERVICE AT PRESTON.—On Wednesday evening, an interesting service was held at Cannon-street Chapel, in recognition of the settlement of the Rev. Thomas Davies, late of York-road, London, as the pastor. After singing, a portion of the Scriptures was read, and prayer offered by the Rev. R. slate. The Rev. Dr. Halley, of Manchester, delivered a discourse upon the principles of Congregationalism and the duties of the pastor, which was no less remarkable for its liberality than it was logical in reasoning and eloquent in its enforcement of great principles, and its elucidation of pastoral duties. Special prayer was offered by the Rev. J. Sudgen, B.A., of Lancaster; and an address was delivered by the Rev. A. Fraser, M.A., of Blackburn, on "The Relation of the People to the Pastor." The Revs. G. Scott, W. Jackson, T. Newton, F. Bugby, C. M. Davies (Kirkham), and J. Bliss (Leyland), were also present, and some of them aided in the service, in which deep interest was manifested by a large congregation.—*Preston Chronicle.*

THE SUFFOLK CONGREGATIONAL UNION held its spring meeting at Beccles, on the 1st and 2nd inst. The Rev. H. More, of Lowestoft, preached the introductory sermon on Tuesday evening. The Rev. John Browne, B.A., Wrentham, preached the Union sermon on Wednesday morning, and the Revs. D. T. Carnion, of Halesworth, and C. Wills M.A., of Bungay, delivered addresses in the evening. At the business meeting, petitions in support of Sir W. Clay's bill for the total abolition of Church-rates, the repeal of the Maynooth Endowment, and the alteration of the marriage law, and a memorial to Lord Palmerston against the recent proclamation for a day of solemn fast, &c. were adopted and ordered to be signed by the chairman. The meeting also passed resolutions in favour of the English Congregational Chapel Building Society, and of the Congregational Pastors' Insurance Aid Society.

THE GLASGOW CALL TO DR. CANDLISH.—At a meeting of the congregation of Free St. George's, the Rev. Dr. Candlish intimated his intention to decline the call from Renfield-street Church, Glasgow.—*Edinburgh Advertiser.*

WINCHMORE HILL, MIDDLESEX.—The Rev. J. H. Richards, of Rotherham College, having preached, for some months, to the Independent Church and congregation in this place, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Church to become their pastor; and commenced his stated ministry in January. There is still a sum of 562*l.*, remainder of the building debt, on the chapel, and efforts are being made for its liquidation.

Anniversary Meetings.

THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION SOCIETY.

The Annual Meetings of the Society for Liberating Religion from State Patronage and Control, were held on Wednesday last in London. The council of the society met in the morning at Radley's Hotel, when members from all parts of the country were present.

W. EDWARDS, Esq., the Treasurer, took the chair shortly after twelve o'clock, and commenced his address, by stating that the Executive had this year sent a copy of their Report to the members of the Council prior to the meeting, that they might be better prepared to discuss the important topics to which it adverted. Commenting on those topics, he said, he thought that the step lately taken towards abolishing tests at the Universities, might be regarded as an important instalment of their rights. (Hear.) The Church-rate question was also ripe for settlement, and even the House of Lords might be made to yield to the expressed will of the public. Respecting the Maynooth Endowment, he

said, that irrespective of individual opinions, in respect to Roman Catholicism, the Executive Committee joined in supporting the proposal for its withdrawal on a broad basis of action—that of hostility to all State endowments—(hear)—and because success would give them an important vantage-ground. The Parliamentary operations of the society might, he thought, be regarded with great satisfaction—(cheers)—but they had required, and still would require, the exercise of much discretion. (Hear.) In holding, as they had lately done, small and private meetings for business purposes, the committee had adopted a right course, as shown by the increase in the number of the society's friends, and in the fact, that its income had never been so large as during the past year. (Cheers.) They, however, had not reached the point at which they were aiming, and must yet exert themselves to increase the society's resources. He, in conclusion, stated that Mr. Kingsley, who had for so many years well served the society as its lecturer, had resigned his office, and explained the circumstances which had prevented the carrying out of the committee's plans at Manchester.

It was then moved and resolved, that the Report should be considered as read; but we insert it here for the information of our readers.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL.—The Executive Committee meet you to-day at the close of a year marked by events affecting, in a more than ordinary degree, the movement entrusted to their guidance. While the continuance of a destructive war has diverted public attention from political reform, ecclesiastical questions have forced themselves to an unusual extent on the notice of Parliament; and it has providentially occurred that the objects aimed at by this institution have been more perceptibly advanced than in years apparently more auspicious. Hence the unremitting labours of the committee have not been unrewarded; and, with increased responsibility, they have also had a consciousness of growing strength.

ORGANISATION AND FUNDS.

Adhering to the plan adopted after the last Conference, they have continued to hold private, in preference to public, meetings, at which they have sought to secure the attendance of influential gentlemen of the locality. On these occasions deputations have submitted a full statement of the society's recent and projected operations, and the result has been, in almost all cases, the accession of new friends, a more thorough appreciation of the society's work, improved local organisation, and an increase of pecuniary support. From the time occupied in making careful arrangements, several districts have not been visited, but, judging from the response already made to their appeals, the increase in the number of their correspondents, and the manifestation of an increased disposition to act on their suggestions, the committee believe that perseverance in such efforts will make their organisation strong in the confidence and co-operation of the friends of free religion in every part of the country.

Although the treasurer will have the satisfaction of reporting a considerable increase in the society's income, and a general improvement in its financial position, the committee greatly regret that the painful circumstances of the times have prevented the realisation of the design of raising the annual income to £5,000. That which appeared practicable in a time of peace and commercial prosperity, has been found unattainable during a season of increased taxation, high prices, and severe distress; and the committee have been reluctantly obliged to postpone applications for subscriptions in towns to which they naturally looked for substantial assistance; while, in other cases, the amounts received are represented as being but an earnest of larger contributions which will follow revival of industrial activity. They, however, venture strongly to urge, that the present is a period in the society's history when, if needful, sacrifices should be made to augment its efficiency and widen the sphere of its usefulness; and, as it is already greatly indebted to the special liberality of a comparatively few, so they cherish the hope of receiving adequate support from all its friends, both now, and in circumstances of greater difficulty, in which the country may yet be placed.

PARLIAMENTARY OPERATIONS.

In their last report the committee described the arrangements made for carrying on with increased vigour the society's parliamentary operations. Of the legislative topics there brought under your notice, there were then under discussion, bills for improving the administration of Church revenues, and for removing the alleged disabilities of Episcopalians in the colonies—the demand of Dissenters to be admitted to the University of Oxford—and the anticipated measures for settling the question of Church-rates. The first of these—the bill of the Marquis of Blandford—was read a second time, on the understanding that it should not be further proceeded with. Re-introduced this year, it has reached the same stage, its further progress being now conditional on the appearance of certain Ecclesiastical Reports. As its provisions will be jealously scrutinised, both by the opponents of all Church Reform, and those who object to placing new funds in the hands of authorities in whom no confidence is reposed, the passing of the bill is likely to be indefinitely delayed. The Colonial Clergy Disabilities Bill was abandoned, from the inability of its authors to satisfy the House of Commons as to its necessity and probable effect, and no fresh experiment of a similar kind has been made in the present session.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.

The success of the attempt to throw open the University of Oxford to the entire community, without reference to creed, has made the past year memorable, not only in the society's history, but in the modern annals of Nonconformity. The unanimity with which, during nearly four months of activity, public opinion had been expressed in favour of the proposal, justified the committee in calculating upon a result which they had desired rather than anticipated at the commencement of their proceedings, but they were not prepared for so decisive a victory as that involved in a majority of ninety-one, obtained in spite of the Government and the Opposition, nor for so ready an acquiescence on the part of the Lords in the concession of the House of Commons.

But, while rejoicing at having secured so important an instalment of long-withheld rights, they would have it borne in mind that much remains to be accomplished, to

place Churchmen and Dissenters on a footing of equality in respect to educational endowments and privileges of a national character. Great as was the preponderance of sentiment in favour of abolishing the Matriculation Test, the House of Commons refused, though by a small majority, to admit Dissenters to the higher honours of the University, and that, from an avowed unwillingness to let them share in its government and more substantial advantages. The House of Lords also thought fit to depreciate even the value of the Bachelor's Degree, by inserting a proviso enforcing subscription wherever it had previously been required as a qualification for office, and thereby continuing the exclusion of Dissenters from the masterships of grammar and other public schools.

As a preliminary means of obtaining from the Legislature further concessions, the committee concurred in the proposal of Mr. Heywood to move for a select committee this session, to inquire into the best mode of rendering the public schools of the country more available for supplying its educational wants. They accordingly exerted themselves in support of the motion for that purpose, and hoped for a favourable issue; but, to their surprise and regret, Mr. Heywood, to the suggestion of the Government to deal with the subject by means of a bill, and refrained from pressing his motion to a division. With a view to bringing in a bill, that gentleman subsequently proposed the consideration of such clauses of the Act of Uniformity as impose religious tests in educational institutions, and of other regulations preventing the full enjoyment of their advantages; but the suggestions of the Government were again unwisely acceded to, the motion being negatived without a division.

A bill for the reform of the University of Cambridge is now before Parliament, and the committee find that, so far as this aspect of the subject is concerned, the liberality of its provisions is bounded by the enactments extorted from the Legislature in the passing of the Oxford Bill. With this minimum of improvement the Nonconformist body, in their judgment, ought not to be satisfied. The reasoning which has prevailed to establish their right to admission to the National Universities, is allowed by their opponents to be as conclusive in favour of their claim to participate in all the privileges which those Universities can confer; while the fact that the doors of Cambridge are already open to them, renders that which was of value in respect to Oxford too paltry for acceptance in the case of the more liberal University. The committee therefore will strive to insert a clause for the entire abolition of religious tests, as also to expunge the disqualifying clause, copied from the Oxford Act, to which they have referred. With this view they hope that the members of the House of Commons who acknowledge the soundness of the principle for which Dissenters are now contending, will be urged by their constituents fearlessly to apply that principle to the present measure. They, however, fear that the present House of Commons will not be induced to advance further in the direction now indicated, and that the Universities, and grammar and other public schools, will not be wrested from the Church Establishment until such a change has been imperatively demanded at the hustings from every professedly liberal candidate.

CHURCH-RATES.

On the subject of Church-rates the committee can speak in more sanguine terms than they were able to do a year ago. As they then anticipated would be the case, the Government has produced no measure of its own to set at rest a question, the early settlement of which it nevertheless admits to be matter of absolute necessity. That of Mr. Packe, last session, would have perpetuated Church-rates in an aggravated form by compelling all parties to pay for the repairs of the fabrics, and exempting from a "furniture and services" rate only attendants at Dissenting chapels, who might choose to make a declaration of their Dissent, to be attested by the oaths of their ministers or two of their fellow-worshippers! Such a proposal was not likely to find favour in any quarter, and the bill being speedily withdrawn, there remained only the simple but decisive measure of Sir W. Clay, absolutely abolishing Church-rates, except where they had been legally pledged as a security for the repayment of loans. Strenuously opposed by the Government at the first stage, it was yet introduced by a considerable majority; and, encouraged by such a reception, the committee increased their exertions to promote petitions in its favour, and to bring the influence of electors to bear upon the votes of members on the second reading. To their surprise and gratification, the combined force of the Government and the Opposition failed to secure a larger majority against the Bill than twenty-even votes—and that in a House of four hundred members, and in the absence of a considerable number of members whose votes had been recorded against Church-rates in previous and less critical divisions. The debates on this bill afforded, in the estimation of the committee, indisputable evidence of the strength of the position now occupied by the Voluntary party. The admission of Lord John Russell that the objections urged against Church-rates apply equally to a Church Establishment—the frank admission of Mr. Gladstone that those objections are "irresistible," with the suggestion that the exaction should be continued only in places where it had been patiently submitted to—and the manly avowal of Lord Stanley, that he had abandoned his own suggested scheme of compromise, in the belief that Parliament has no option but to bow to the decision of the country in the adoption of the Voluntary principle—these and similar occurrences unmistakably indicate the approaching abandonment of taxation for ecclesiastical purposes.

At the commencement of the present year, the committee arranged with Sir William Clay for the re-introduction of his bill, with the addition of provisions adapted to meet the changed circumstances in which it will place the members of the Church of England. Believing it to be possible to carry the measure during this session, they have sought to impress upon their friends the necessity for not only renewing but increasing the exertions made last year, and have furnished detailed information and practical suggestions for eliciting the fullest expression of opinion in the parish vestry, through the public press, and within the walls of Parliament. The time has not come for a fuller statement upon these points, nor for attempts to estimate what has been, or is likely to be, accomplished, as the result of such efforts. But there is significance in the fact, that not only has the bill been again introduced by a majority of two to one, and in a larger House, but the Government, and the whole Liberal party, have thus far given it their support. The care required in the framing of the clauses to which reference has been made, lest they should, in any degree, infringe the principles to which

the committee of this society must scrupulously adhere, has delayed the printing of the bill; but it being now in the hands of the public, the committee trust that it will be found to have ceded all that can be demanded by the Nonconformist, and, at the same time, to have met the reasonable requirements of members of the Church of England who have ceased to regard the retention of an odious impost as essential to the stability of their Church.

The committee now await with solicitude the issue of the debate on the second reading, on the 16th May. That issue is, they believe, dependent, primarily, not on the attitude which may be assumed by the Government, nor on the personal opinions of the members of the House of Commons, but on the determination which may be shown by the opponents of Church-rates out of doors. The Legislature may not, and probably does not, desire their abolition; but neither does it manifest an inclination to incur the responsibility of rejecting the only proposition which is popular in the country, and against which there has yet been no hostile demonstration on the part of even the alarmists of the Church Establishment. There remain yet two weeks to increase the number of petitions, and to obtain distinct assurances of support from representatives. It is an occasion when every rate-payer and elector opposed to Church-rates should contribute to intensify the pressure, without which even our known wishes will be disregarded; and in the possible event of failure, it should be felt that all our present resources have been exhausted, and that only another general election will terminate the struggle.

The committee refer with pleasure to the fact that local resistance to Church-rates continues to extend, and that, stimulated by the suggestion of Mr. Gladstone, the inhabitants of small towns and even villages have carried their opposition to a poll—in many instances with unexpected success, and in all to the advancement of principles destined to effect changes of a graver kind. To afford facilities for effectively conducting these parochial contests, the committee have issued a new assortment of tracts and bills adapted to the present position of the question, and have also employed a competent professional gentleman to prepare a "Vestryman's Guide," giving, in an authoritative shape, information which has, year by year, been increasingly in request. They believe that this work will be of considerable value to those who, in the face of many difficulties, are manfully asserting their parochial rights.

REGIUM DONUM AND MAYNOOTH GRANT.

The committee have again objected to the continuance of the Parliamentary grant to Irish Presbyterians, known as the *Regium Donum*; Mr. Bright having, at their request, moved for the reduction of the amount, with a view to prevent any further increase. Though unsuccessful in the division, Mr. Bright demonstrated the mischievous working of the grant, in repressing the liberality of the wealthiest religious body in Ireland, and with great effect demanded to know on what principle Irish Presbyterians could claim State support, in the absence of which other Dissenting bodies maintain a more vigorous existence. His speech on the occasion having been published by the committee, for circulation in Ireland, there ensued a lengthened correspondence between Dr. Wilson, of Belfast, and Mr. Bright, and between Dr. Wilson and Dr. Foster, in which, while the accuracy of some of the statements made in the debate was impugned—though not very successfully—the material fact was not denied, that the recipients of the *Donum* receive but miserably small sums from their congregations. The subsequent publication of a parliamentary return, moved for by Mr. Hadfield, who has devoted much time to the subject, has furnished additional information of the same conclusive character, and shows that the requisitions of the Government in distributing the grant are not complied with, and that even the pittance of £57. per annum is in many cases partially withheld by those who insist that their pastors shall be stipendiaries of the State.

But the committee anticipate less from direct attacks upon this particular grant, than from a movement aimed at the endowment enjoyed by another religious body in Ireland. The narrowness of the majority which, last session, defeated Mr. Spooner's unexpected proposal to replace the Maynooth grant in the annual estimates, may be regarded as foreshadowing an event which will materially change the position of ecclesiastical parties in Ireland—an event, the probability of which is increased by the expressed opinion of an influential Roman Catholic (Mr. Lucas, M.P.), in favour of a renunciation of all parliamentary grants, and a junction with the supporters of the Voluntary principle in hostility to the Irish Church.

The appearance of the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of Maynooth College has led to the resumption of agitation on the subject, with the specific object of procuring the repeal of the Act of 1845, increasing the grant and placing it on the Consolidated Fund. The committee have not hesitated in deciding that such a proposal should have their support. To the Act of 1845 they were strenuously opposed, and they have since repeatedly denounced the policy on which it was based, and their determination to seek its repeal when circumstances should favour the attempt. But they now, as they have always done, rest their opposition to this endowment on grounds equally applicable to the endowments and grants enjoyed by other ecclesiastical bodies. As they have endeavoured to abolish the Ministers' Money of the Episcopalian and the *Regium Donum* of the Presbyterian, so they now ask for the withdrawal of the grant to the Roman Catholic. Their basis of action is, therefore, unsectarian and scrupulously just; and so long as they are careful to enunciate their own distinctive principle, they deem it right to unite with others aiming at the same object, though influenced by different motives. As the Establishment principle, in the triple form in which it exists in Ireland, cannot be successfully assailed in its entirety, the only practical course is an assault on its weakest point. The Irish Roman Catholic party too well understand and respect the singleness of purpose which characterises our movement, to suspect us of intolerance, while they may be reconciled to the loss of their endowment by the assurance, that the recoil of the blow aimed at them will shake the ecclesiastical system from which they have been the severest sufferers. For the committee entertain the confident expectation, that the repeal of the Maynooth Act will weaken the principle of Church and State connexion throughout the three kingdoms. It having been the design of that Act to prolong the existence of the Irish Church Establishment, its repeal will combine against it all the elements of opposition; and the success

ORIGINAL
DEFECTIVE

of such opposition cannot but seriously affect the English and Scottish Establishments.

OTHER PARLIAMENTARY TOPICS.

It would extend this report to an inconvenient length to refer in detail to other Parliamentary incidents—to the rejection, partly through the agency of the committee, of bills like that of Lord Harrowby, for pulling down churches, regardless of parochial rights, and that of the Great Northern Railway Company, for erecting and endowing one in defiance of dissentient shareholders—to the continued exclusion of the Jew from Parliament—to the important admissions of Bishops and peers, that the Census has shown the superiority of Voluntaryism over Parliamentary aid—to the measures which will hasten the abolition of the Ecclesiastical Courts—to the proposal to inquire into the operation of the acts regulating interments, and to the ecclesiastical provisions of rival educational projects. The rapid succession in which such topics have claimed public attention or called for the vigilance of the friends of religious liberty is itself suggestive, and, it is submitted, proves conclusively the need for keeping in vigorous action the most effective agencies which the society's resources will enable it to supply. Under such an impression, and to guide anti-State-Churchmen in parliamentary and in electoral struggles, the committee have issued an "Occasional Paper," furnishing a sketch of the ecclesiastical business brought before Parliament last session, with the votes of members of the House of Commons on leading divisions. By the issue of a similar paper at the close of each session there will be placed in the hands of the society's supporters a register of increasing value, which, on the occurrence of a general election, will assist them in displacing representatives whose votes have been inconsistent with their professions, or whose ecclesiastical views are no longer abreast with those of their constituents.

ELECTORAL COMMITTEE.

The committee have, for some time past, been anxiously alive to the necessity for making the society's influence available for increasing, by systematic and well-chosen means, the number of members of the House of Commons who may be relied upon to support the society's parliamentary policy. They therefore report with much gratification the formation of an electoral committee, under the presidency of Mr. Samuel Morley, and of which the Rev. E. S. Pryce—whom they have lately had the pleasure of appointing Travelling Secretary—will act as secretary. The committee, justified by the importance of the interests involved, ask with earnestness for this new committee, that degree of local co-operation without which it will be impossible to carry out its plans. If the last general election enabled Dissenters, with imperfect preparation, and without a central agency, to acquire unexpected political strength, another dissolution of Parliament, under more favourable auspices, ought to witness success on a far larger scale. But the measure of success will be the degree of forethought and determination which characterizes our arrangements for the event, while in their absence it may be anticipated that even our present position will be with difficulty maintained.

THE COLONIES.

The review of the past year would be incomplete without some allusion to those phases of the movement for liberating religion from State patronage and control which are presented in our colonial dependencies, more especially when the committee can point to them for the most striking proof of the advancement of their principles which has been witnessed since that movement commenced.

Two years have now elapsed since the Imperial Parliament conceded to the Legislature of Canada the power of terminating a dangerous and long-continued agitation, by applying to secular uses lands the proceeds of which have hitherto maintained the clergy of various sects. That power has now been exercised; and, on the express ground that "it is desirable to remove all semblance of connexion between Church and State," the Statute-book of Canada records the success of Canadian Voluntaries, and decrees that throughout the colony, as in the neighbouring States of America, the maintenance of religion shall devolve on the liberality and zeal of its own friends. The greatness of this event may be estimated by the strenuous efforts of the supporters of English Churchmen to withhold from the Colonial Legislature the right to alienate the Reserves, while it is rendered more significant by the fact that those who were elected as its pledged opponents have, by the force of events, been made the instruments for the introduction and passing of the measure.

It will be remembered that on the passing of the Australian Constitution Act the committee sought to remove the restrictions placed on the local Legislatures in respect to ecclesiastical grants. The act which the Legislative Council of Victoria has passed under the authority of that measure having largely reached this country, the committee find that, instead of 6,000/-, hitherto voted, 50,000/- per annum is allotted to the ministers of different sects. This retrograde step has been taken in opposition to the wishes of the colonists, was one of the last acts of a body about to give place to a popularly-elected Assembly, and was carried by the votes of the nominee members. But the Legislature having exceeded its powers, the act requires the sanction of the Imperial Parliament, and that sanction will, they hope, be withheld. More than 11,000 colonists have memorialised the Government with that view, and it is proposed that a deputation of Nonconformists shall wait upon the Colonial Secretary to urge compliance with their request.

There has also lately arrived another measure from the same colony, which, on the ground that "it is expedient to provide for the regulation and management of the affairs of the United Church of England and Ireland in Victoria," in fact, insidiously initiates an Episcopalian Establishment, and so threatens the introduction into the colony of all those evils which have so disastrously affected our own religious and political interests. As this act cannot take effect without imperial sanction, the committee will unite with others to prevent its being carried into execution.

It would be instructive, if time permitted, to add to these statements particulars of recent occurrences at Hobart Town, in Ceylon, and at the Cape, and more particularly on the continent of Europe—all bearing, more or less, on the relationship which the civil power should sustain towards religious bodies, and all indicating an awakening of the public mind to the necessity for fundamental changes, and an unlooked-for preparedness for the adoption of that principle of self-support in religious

matters which, in the emphatic language lately employed by Lord Stanley, "whether we like it or no—whether we approve of it or no—whether we think it the best possible system or no—seems likely, perhaps certain, in the inevitable progress of public events, to be the principle of the next generation." *

The committee, therefore, conclude the labours of another year with an unwonted consciousness that they are not labouring in vain, nor spending their strength for nought; but, on the contrary, that God, in his Providence, is multiplying occasions for their activity and facilities for the successful discharge of their arduous duties. Theirs, however, is but a delegated responsibility, and their achievements must be regulated by the zeal and steady support of those in whose name they act. These have not, hitherto, been wanting; but they now ask for them in larger measure, with a confidence justified, not less by results already realised, than by the prospect of more important triumphs.

The SECRETARY then read the

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£ s. d.
To Balance in hand, May 2, 1855	300 1 8
" Cash received on account of Premises, 41, Ludgate-hill	116 7 10
" Cash received by Sale of Publications	159 14 11
" Subscriptions and Donations	2,350 0 1
	£3,126 4 6

C.	£ s. d.
By Meeting	141 16 10
" Travelling Expenses	207 18 5
" Expenses of Parliamentary Sub-Committee	140 2 1
" Salaries	1,046 8 3
" Advertising	122 2 2
" Stationery	21 9 1
" Printing	337 19 10
" Expenses of Local Committees	66 0 8
" Postages and Carriage of Parcels	117 11 0
" Authors' Paper, and Binding	189 8 9
" Rent, Insurance, Taxes, and Removal Expenses	161 11 3
" Treasurer, on account of Loans	287 7 2
" Sandries	15 4 7
" Payment on account of Conference Expenses (1853)	52 1 0
" Cash at Bankers, May 1, 1855	219 3 5
	£3,126 4 6

We, the undersigned, having examined the foregoing Account, find the same to be correct.

(Signed)

CHARLES JONES.

EBENEZER CLARKE.

HENRY THOMPSON.

May 1, 1855.

Mr. JOHN FIELDER, of Manchester, briefly moved—

That the report of the Executive Committee be received and adopted. That the Council rejoices at the society's improved financial condition, the increase in the number of its supporters, and the growth of its influence, as shown in the operations of the past year; and finds in these circumstances motives to greater exertion and liberality, to promote its efficiency.

Rev. W. J. CROSS (Bristol), in seconding the motion, expressed his great gratification at the character of the report, and stated that, at Bristol, the changes made in the society, and the visit of a deputation, had produced the most marked results, in avowals of an intention to support the society on the part of those who had before stood aloof, and in the doubling of the subscription-list. (Cheers.) He thought that the more their work assumed the practical shape it had lately done, the stronger the society would become. (Hear.)

The resolution having been carried, it was reported that Messrs. Davison (of Gravesend) and Whitehurst (of London) had been appointed members of the executive in the place of the Rev. Messrs. Pryce and Kirkus, who had resigned, which appointments were confirmed.

Rev. J. T. COLLIER (Downton) moved—

That while regarding with pleasure the late concession of the minor degrees at Oxford University, the Council can accept it only as a step towards securing perfect equality in the enjoyment by all classes of the advantages afforded by educational institutions of a national character. That it expresses its dissatisfaction at the meagre proposal contained in the Cambridge University Bill now before Parliament, to entitle Dissenters—who have hitherto been admitted to the University—to receive only the Bachelor's degrees, as at Oxford, and bachelors in the propriety of adopting measures for further applying the principle now contemplated for, not only in the case of the Universities, but in the opening of the Public and Grammar-schools of the United Kingdom to all sections of the community.

He thought that, whatever doubts might exist as to the immediate result of the recent change, there could be none as to the importance of the ultimate consequences.

Dr. FOSTER seconded the motion, and explained the steps taken this session to follow up the movement of last year. Mr. Heywood's motion for a select committee had been carefully framed, so that the right on the part of Dissenters to become masters of Grammar-schools might be secured. (Hear, hear.) Efforts were made to secure the votes of the Liberal party, and there was a probability of carrying the motion, had not Mr. Heywood unfortunately withdrawn it without going to a division. It was also to be regretted that he had acted with similar indecision on a subsequent occasion; but the committee were not responsible for, and were chagrined at, what had happened.

Mr. FRANK CROSSLER, M.P., hoped they would not bear too hardly on Mr. Heywood, who had great influence in the House, and could do more than many of the Dissenting members.

Other gentlemen having expressed an opinion on the circumstance, the resolution was carried; and

The Rev. J. HIRONS (Brixton) moved—

That the Council heartily congratulates the friends of the Voluntary principle in Canada, on their at length witnessing so great an ecclesiastical change as the appropriation to secular uses of public lands hitherto applied to the maintenance of ministers of various denominations. That the agitation occasioned in various colonies by the voting of public money for religious purposes, affords a hopeful indication of the progress of the society's principles; while attempts to pass measures for facilitating the establishment of the Episcopalian sect call for vigilance to prevent the infliction on the colonies of evils from which the mother-country has so long suffered.

It was, he said, in the highest degree encouraging to find, that in the colonies the foundation of future empires was being laid in sound principles, and that the Voluntary principle was not only thoroughly understood, but courageously applied. In that respect, an example was supplied which should stimulate us in this

country. Here the principle had to contend with interested opponents, but to a greater extent with a large neutral section, who constituted the dead weight of political society, and were merely waiters on Providence. (Hear, hear.) The report, however, showed that the action of the Colonial Legislatures required to be closely watched.

Mr. CHARLES JONES (London) seconded the motion, which, after an inquiry had been made as to the steps to be taken to oppose the acts passed at Victoria, the resolution was passed.

Mr. E. S. ROBINSON (Bristol) moved—

That the Council warmly approves of the measures of the Executive Committee to secure the early abolition of Church-rates. That it joins in exhorting the opponents of those exactions everywhere to use their influence in support of Sir William Clay's bill, and pledges itself to unabated exertion for the extinction of a system injurious to religion and fatal to social peace.

He was glad that the society, while not abandoning its abstract principle, was taking specific measures for gradually separating Church and State—a course which would, he thought, enable it to make head rapidly.

Mr. BOAKER (Folkestone), in seconding the motion, said they should adopt O'Connell's plan, which was, to take 7s. 6d. in the pound, and then demand the more loudly the 12s. 6d. (Laughter.) He had brought with him to town a petition for the abolition of Church-rates under the Corporation seal of Folkestone. (Hear, hear.) They had also succeeded in getting a liberal burial board appointed, excluding from it the clergymen, and making it a lay board. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. FOSTER thought that about 220 votes were as many as could be obtained against the second reading of Sir W. Clay's Bill; that 140 Liberal members had not voted; that many of these were wavers, and their votes would depend upon which side was most pressing. (Hear, hear.) He repeated the advice to send petitions to the local members, whether in favour of the bill or not, rather than place them in the hands of a few of its known friends.

Remarks from the Rev. R. Macbeth, Messrs. Bonnem, Rose, Perry, C. S. Miall, Doxsey, Edlington, and Boarer, followed, on the danger of sending petitions to opponents, lest they should not be presented, some instances in which that had occurred being mentioned.

The SECRETARY said, that as they regularly saw and filed the Report of the Petition Committee of the House of Commons, which appeared twice a week, they could at any time ascertain whether any petition had been presented; and he, therefore, suggested that where a doubt existed, their friends should ascertain the fact, and then write to the member who had failed to comply with their request. The motion having passed,

The Rev. J. BURNET moved—

That the Council reiterates its objection to "ministers' money" levied for the support of the Irish Episcopalian clergy—to the Regium Domum received by Irish Presbyterians—and to the endowment possessed by the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth. That having strenuously opposed the Act of 1845 for increasing the last-named endowment, not only as an application of public money to an ecclesiastical purpose, but as being intended to strengthen the Irish Church Establishment, it is still solicitous for the repeal of such act, as evidently tending to hasten the withdrawal of State patronage and support from the Episcopal and all other religious communities in Ireland.

The Regum Domum was hush-money given to the Presbyterians, because they were strong enough to make the governing powers in Ireland uneasy; and the effect upon them was, that the 35*l.* a year which the congregations ought to raise to enable their ministers to share in the grant, was either not raised or made up in such a way as not to be a reality. The Maynooth grant was based on the same policy, and when that was withdrawn they might be assured that the Irish Roman Catholics would become stern voluntaries as formerly they had been emancipationists. (Hear, hear.)

Rev. C. STOVEL having seconded the motion,

The Rev. J. HIRONS reminded the Council that Mr. Whiteside had lately complimented the Irish Presbyterians as being more respectable and better behaved than English Dissenters. ("Hear," and laughter.)

Mr. WHITEHURST, of London, said that the Roman Catholic element was strong in the House, and could exercise much influence in the Voluntary direction. He urged the importance of excluding the anti-Roman Catholic element from their opposition to this grant. He had strong Protestant feelings, but in this case he acted simply on the ground of justice, while he believed that even Roman Catholics would gain by the proposed change. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. FOSTER thought that the Roman Catholic body regarded the Maynooth endowment as a bad speculation; but it was a point of honour with them not to give it up, at the bidding of those who attacked simply on anti-Catholic grounds. He believed that their representatives quite understood the course taken by the society, and did not object to it. (Hear.)

The motion having been carried, Mr. ISAAC PERRY, of Chelmsford, moved—

That the Council regards with special satisfaction the formation of a committee to promote the return to the House of Commons of representatives favourable to the society's objects; that it earnestly desires for such committee hearty co-operation throughout the various constituencies, and recommends early preparation for a general election whenever it may take place.

As resident in a district where Dissenters felt themselves unable to increase the electoral strength of the body, he was very glad that this committee would exist to work with effect in more favourably situated localities.

Rev. J. PRICHARD (Llangollen), in seconding the motion, referred to the state of the representation in Wales, where Dissenters were numerous but not wealthy, and where landowners thought themselves entitled not only to rents, but to the votes of their tenants. They, therefore, suffered from "the screw"—(laughter)—and an effort was required to stimulate them to act in a self-sacrificing and conscientious spirit.

Mr. ROBINSON approved of the appointment of Mr.

Morley as chairman, and of Mr. Pryce as secretary, of the Electoral Committee. Their society had, in fact, got what was wanting in the administration of public affairs, "the right men in the right places." (Cheers.)

An animated discussion followed, relating to the working of the committee and the course to be pursued at elections, and there appeared to be an agreement in the conclusion that no general rule could be laid down, but that there must be a wise adoption of conduct to circumstances. The motion having been carried.

Rev. L. DOXSEY proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and members of the Parliamentary Sub-committee and to the secretary and members of the Executive Committee, for their valuable and effective services during the year.

Mr. ROBINSON having seconded the motion and joined in the mover's commendations, it was carried, and acknowledged by the chairman, who said that it had been usual to dispense with such a vote, but it was, nevertheless, warmly appreciated.

Rev. D. JONES moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Edwards, as chairman, and also for his services as treasurer, and in doing so referred to the subject of Burial Boards, and urged its great importance to Dissenters.

Mr. HATCH (Oxford) seconded the vote, which was cordially carried, and acknowledged by the treasurer, who expressed his satisfaction at the earnest, practical, and business-like character of the proceedings.

The members of the council afterwards dined together, under the presidency of the chairman; and, on the withdrawal of the cloth, interesting addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Stovel, Clapp (Appledore), Jones (Folkestone), Mr. Miall, M.P., and Mr. Pellatt, M.P., but our space will not allow us to give a report.

THE PUBLIC MEETING

was held in the evening, at Finsbury Chapel, and was very numerously attended. The platform was filled with the society's friends, many of them from the provinces. Among them we recognised Samuel Morley, Esq., who presided; Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., M.P.; Thos. Barnes, Esq., M.P.; Edward Miall, Esq., M.P.; J. Crook, Esq., M.P.; Rev. J. Burnet, Rev. Dr. Campbell; Mr. Alderman Wire; A. S. Ayrton, Esq.; William Edwards, Esq.; Rev. W. Leask, Rev. Charles Stovel, Rev. J. H. Hinton, Dr. Foster, Rev. J. Washington, Rev. Robert Ashton, Rev. Henry Richard, Dr. Massie, Rev. C. F. Vardy, Rev. S. Davis; Edward Swaine, Esq.; William Baines, Esq., of Leicester; Jas. Durham, Esq., of Edinburgh; E. S. Robinson, Esq., of Bristol; Rev. J. Clapp, of Appledore; Jno. Fildes, Esq., of Manchester; and Rev. J. Gathorne, of Derby.

SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., took the chair at half-past six o'clock. He had been merely requested, he said, to occupy that position in order to renew his expressions of sympathy with the great object which this society seeks to accomplish, and his thorough concurrence in—even admiration of—the methods which had been adopted to that end. (Hear, hear.) If there was one thing more than another he deemed to be important, it was this—that all public men in this country should clearly understand what it is that the supporters of this association are aiming to accomplish. A great many of these men had got the general notion of its being for the separation of the Church from the State; but, then, they associated with that the idea of something dreadful being intended in relation to that Establishment. Now, for himself he might say, that, so far from expecting any danger to result to the Church from such a separation, he believed the Establishment would be all the better for passing through such process, while religion would thereby be rendered more powerful in its operation, and civil liberty be increased and strengthened. (Cheers.) What they contended for, therefore, was the separation of law from opinion; and the great thing at which they were aiming was, the bringing on of the time when there should never be heard in the House of Commons one word about the religious opinions of any man—(cheers)—and when the honourable members of that House—who were certainly not chosen by the country because of their power to decide what is, and what is not the truth on matters of religion—(hear, hear)—should be able to devote all their time to the civil and political interests of the nation. There were generally plenty of monstrous abuses which required to be removed, and therefore there was little fear of the Commons having nothing to do when their attention should be relieved from all ecclesiastical affairs. (Hear, hear.) He conceived it to be the duty of all those who looked at the subject in this way to seek, by every means in their power, to enlighten their neighbours and fellow-citizens on the point. The Society for the Liberation of Religion had this precise object in view; and the course which it had taken for some months past in the prosecution of this object was of so excellent and practical a kind, that it had most entirely commanded itself to his judgment. (Hear, hear.)

The meeting might be aware that a committee had been formed in connexion with it, with a special view to the enlightenment of the members of the House of Commons on those subjects in which the friends of the society are interested and to keep honourable gentlemen up to the mark. (Laughter and cheer.) Without wishing generally, by obtaining pledges from them, to coerce members, he believed that there were many places where it would be perfectly right for the Dissenting portion of the electors to let it be distinctly understood that their support to any candidate must be contingent upon his sympathy with their distinctive principles. (Hear, hear.) Let this plan be adopted in proper cases, and there would be every reason to expect that the small band of right-minded men in the House of Commons at the present moment would become speedily augmented, and possess the powers of inducing the Government to aid in the advancement of the true principles of civil

and religious liberty. (Hear, hear.) But that this might be so, there must, of course, be a larger amount of zealous co-operation on the part of the whole body of the friends of the principles of this association throughout the country; and then they might confidently expect to make rapid advances, and prove ultimately triumphant. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS said, that, as that was an annual meeting, the committee believed that there would be a desire to have some information respecting the society's operations; but, as they also believed that that information might be imparted in a more acceptable shape than that of a lengthy and elaborately-written report—(hear, hear)—he was desired to make a brief statement.

[As we have already given the report, we need not report the secretary's speech. The announcement of the progress made by the society in several respects was loudly cheered.]

The Rev. JOHN BURNET, in rising to move the first resolution, was received with loud cheers. The resolution was:—

That this meeting rejoices at the indications afforded by many recent events of the increasing tendency of public opinion in favour of the objects sought by the society; and desires to sustain it in continuing operations which have already been followed by so gratifying an amount of success.

He said: as the object which this association had in view was the separation of the Church from the State,—as they had never agreed together, never been cordial friends—they must look to the Government of the country for its full accomplishment. What, he would ask, is the duty of the Government? Was it not to take care of the temporal interests of the community,—its spiritual interests they could not conserve,—and to do this with all justice and equity: not preferring either by favour, affection, or relationship, one above another. (Hear, hear.) Then, he might ask, what is the course of the Government—its duty, unhappily, being very frequently totally different from its course? (Hear, hear.) The course of the Government, as they all knew but too well, was to make themselves strong by their friends, to collocate them as parts of an administration to secure their votes, and to get candidates returned that would sustain them in the pursuit of their purposes, whatever they might be. It was not, he believed, usually the course of the Government to forget their relations. (Hear, and laughter.) It might be said, therefore, that the duty of the Government and the course of the Government are exceedingly different from one another. (Hear, hear.) In the next place, in reference to the society that the resolution brought before them, with an earnest desire that it might be sustained, and enabled to enlarge its operations, he would ask, what is the duty of the people? Was it the duty of John Bull to do nothing more than what he was often said to do, to grumble? Surely not; the people had a positive duty to perform, and they deserved not the name of Britons if they left that duty neglected, and permitted the Government just to do as it pleased. (Hear, hear.) It was the duty of the people, he would say, to watch their own interests, to watch the Government, and to instruct the Government; and, if the Government should say, we do not require to be informed, then it was the duty of the people to urge the Government to practise what they know. (Cheers.) If the people did not act thus, how could they blame the Government which made express provision for the execution of this duty on the part of the people? (Hear, hear.) It seemed to be too often forgotten that it was the duty of the people to take care what sort of men they returned to Parliament. An election took the business of legislation out of the hands of the Government; and the men who presented themselves for the suffrages of the constituents in effect said, we will go and check and teach the Government for you; and if necessary accuse and impeach the Government for you. (Cheers.) The position of the candidate being thus important, the position of the elector was not less so. (Hear.) The man who showed himself to be too indolent or too careless to vote at all, and worse still, the man who gave his vote for a bribe, ought to be severely censured, and have his name struck out of the list of the free population of the kingdom. Depend upon it that Government would continue to do just as they do now so long as the people permitted them. (Hear.) Having glanced at the duty of the people, let them next consider the course of the people. They were divided and subdivided; every man had an opinion, and had a right to have an individual opinion; although he (Mr. Burnet) doubted whether he had a right to form that opinion without reference to the general interests of the community. As belonging to a great and mighty empire, no Englishman ought to stand in a position which made him reckless of all the interests which surrounded him. (Hear, hear.) A man must work for his neighbours as well as for himself, so long as he occupied a place in society. But the course of the people in general was neglect; while the duty of the people was to abolish the ecclesiastical connexion with the State. The present were times of great movements; we could hear in twelve hours from the Crimea, 3,000 miles away, and travel in trains which, in their rapidity, seemed to emulate the lightning that trembles on the wire; and we naturally asked ourselves, How is it that, under such circumstances, we are, in matters ecclesiastical, still in the dull haze of the middle ages? (Hear, hear.) But, while we had the express train, we had also the parliamentary train—the slowest of them all, and most appropriately named. (Laughter and cheers.) We had an ecclesiastical train, however, that was slower still. He was not throwing out any reflections on any Church whatever, as such; but was merely speaking of the State-Church, which, like the parliamentary train, was the slowest of all. (Laughter.) Its directors had no notion of resorting

to modern appliances; they placed the train upon the rails, but refused to use the steam-engine. Instead of this, they called upon those in their employ to put their shoulders to it and push it on. "It won't move," say the men. "Oh, push harder," says the smiling director; and presently it moves a little, but it screeches and rasps; and the men who are pushing it on are gasping for breath. By and by it comes to a dead stop. "What is the matter?" says the director. "Oh, Sir," they reply, "the Dissenters have built a chapel here, and they have thrown some of the rubbish on the rails, and we cannot get the train along." (Laughter.) "Oh, push on! push on!" says the director. "But," say they, "if we do, we shall go over the embankment, and we have several archbishops and bishops in the train, and to throw them out would be a serious matter." (Laughter.) "Oh, never mind them," says the director; "the Queen can make as many of them as she pleases as fast as you can say Jack Robinson!" (Renewed laughter.) At last, it moves again a little; and the director urges them still to push on, assuring them that they have a kind and generous House of Commons who will pay them their wages whether they made any progress or not. But a new difficulty now comes in their way,—the wheels of the engine become clogged with *Clay*—(laughter and cheers)—and that *Clay* was exceedingly stiff and obdurate, and yet the people had the assurance to dignify it with the title of "Sir William." (Cheers.) "And, moreover, this Sir William," they say to the director, "threatens, if we don't go about our business in a proper manner, he will turn on the steam and do it for us." (Laughter and cheers.) Why did we not connect the train with steam, after the good new fashion, and let it go through the country with rapidity, carrying the good news of the Gospel into every town, village, and hamlet of the country, and into the lowest and most obscure, as well as the highest homes of the land, letting the people feel that there is a power and a reality in religion with which States and Governments have nothing to do. (Cheers.) But the subject of Maynooth was alluded to in the resolution. For three centuries England had gloried in being a Protestant country, and if it is, its Protestantism ought to be self-supported. Protestantism gloried in its power and vigour when it gloried justly; then away with its grants and endowments of all sorts; and we should become a people great, glorious, and free, and the Gospel would speak in its own might to the hearts of every man, without the aid or control of any Government whatever. (Hear, hear.) Let the only riches of the Church be the unsearchable riches of Christ. (Cheers.)

Mr. ALDERMAN WIRE seconded the resolution. The Secretary had given to the meeting a very gratifying proof that the operations of this society had not been unattended with success; and it was only necessary to compare the state of things now with that of thirty years ago, in order to see that this and kindred societies have produced a potent influence upon general society. He could not but fear, however, that the success which had attended the efforts of the Nonconformists had tended to lull them to sleep. After they had succeeded in repealing the Test and Corporation Acts, there seemed to have been experienced a disinclination to go further; but events had shown that they ought to have instantly followed up the success which they had then obtained. (Hear.) The time was coming now when it would be necessary for the Dissenters of this Kingdom, and the friends of pure religion in all denominations to unite for the accomplishment of the object to which this Society had devoted itself. (Hear, hear.) There could be no doubt whatever that the society's principles were making rapid progress in the public mind, and not only among Dissenters, but also in the circles of the wisest and best of the members of the Church of England. (Hear, hear.) But, however gratifying might be the progress already made, it must be evident to those who look upon the Established Church of the country in all its ramifications, that a large amount of earnest and continued action would be required before its connexion with the State would be made to cease. (Hear, hear.) When he spoke of the Church of England, he of course did so merely as a civil establishment. (Hear, hear.) He had no war with the members of that Church, and he trusted that the Dissenters of this country would associate with them in all useful, religious, and patriotic objects, whenever practicable. As a civil establishment, however, he most earnestly desired its removal, as an enemy to liberty and a drag upon the wheels of the chariot of human advancement. (Hear, hear.) He could not, therefore, but point with satisfaction to the signs of the progress in that direction; such, for instance, as the reform of the Oxford University. A few years ago it was found utterly impracticable; but now the Government, urged on by an improved public opinion, had itself introduced a large measure of reform, so as to allow Dissenters to enter within its walls. That measure, it was true, was clogged by provisions which ought not to be there; but these also would most assuredly be at length removed. (Hear, hear.) And he believed that when the Cambridge Bill was debated in the House of Commons, Nonconformists would be admitted to take all the degrees which that University could bestow. (Hear, hear.) Look at the success which had attended the measure of Sir Wm. Clay. (Hear, hear.) He had but little hope that the bill for the abolition of Church rates would pass the House of Lords; but there could be no question that its discussion in the House of Commons would gain for it such an increase of moral power and numerical strength, that ultimately success must attend it. (Hear, hear.) Look, too, at the comparatively large number of Nonconformist members in the House, and consider the increase, both of moral and numerical strength, which was likely to take place at the coming election; and there was reason to hope

that they would be able to carry measures which would free the State from its present political connexion with religion, and ultimately crown the most sanguine hopes of the friends of liberty. (Cheers.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

ACTON S. AYRTON, Esq., moved—

That while regarding with satisfaction the virtual extinction of Church-rates in an increasing number of parishes, this meeting desires that the Legislature should interpose to abolish a system injurious to both our religious and our social interests. But it is of opinion that the question of Church-rates can be satisfactorily settled only by their entire emancipation, and it therefore resolves to present a petition to the House of Commons in favour of Sir Wm. Clay's bill for that object—such petition to be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, which is to be presented by one of the members of the City of London.

The opinions which he had come to entertain on the question of Church and State had not been lightly or inconsiderately taken up. (Hear, hear.) It had been his good fortune to spend a large portion of his life in India, where he had had the opportunity of witnessing the effective working of the Voluntary principle. That country contained a population of 120,000,000 of people, who maintained in great munificence temples, churches, chapels, and everything therewith connected, without Government aid. Unfortunately, indeed, the Government of that country did identify itself with a particular Church, and voted money for its support. But, instead of the effect being beneficial, it was most pernicious. (Hear, hear.) It was only two days ago that the mail from India brought him a picture of the condition of that Established Church, which was being held up to scorn by a portion of the Press. The Episcopal Establishment of India, consisting of three bishops, three archdeacons, and about a hundred chaplains, was maintained at an expense of 120,000*l.* a year. That of Bombay consisted of one bishop with 2,500*l.* a year, a senior chaplain and archdeacon of 1,200*l.* and 900*l.*, seven chaplains at 840*l.*, and twenty assistant-chaplains at 600*l.* a year. Great complaint was being made of the Bishop of Bombay in never visiting his diocese, notwithstanding his visitation allowances of 1,200*l.* a year. (Hear, hear.) A sum amounting to 5,000*l.* a year in all was set down for visiting and travelling allowances; the total Episcopal charge to the Government being 22,370*l.*, besides that for Presbyterians and Roman Catholics; and this for a total European population, exclusive of private soldiers, of about 2,000 souls. (Hear, hear.) And to make matters worse, the Established clergy were actually "forbidden to interfere with native error"—one of the most fatal consequences of the connexion of the Church with the State. (Hear, hear.) It was represented, too, by the Indian journals, that the bishop had no sooner arrived at Bombay than he at once fell into the spirit of the time, "maintaining a pompous array of men in purple livery—beyond what the Commander-in-Chief ever dreams of—he affected a hauteur and insolence of manner which would have been disgusting in a governor, and was contemptible in a bishop. In place of countenancing every philanthropic, moral, and religious institution and project; attending all charitable, educational, missionary, and other meetings; joining our learned societies, and participating in their pursuits—the Bishop was never seen in public, unless where the Governor presided. Anything intellectual or literary would have been reckoned vulgar; the Governor never studied or thought—why should the Bishop?" (Laughter.) The consequence was, very naturally, that these lordly ministers lost the esteem of the people, while those who maintained a consistent deportment, and depended upon the voluntary offerings of the people for their support, had power and influence in the country. (Hear.) Having witnessed these things himself, he had arrived at the conclusions, that the principles communicated by the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control, were those by which religion might be most efficiently maintained and propagated over the continent of India. And he saw no reason why the same principles should not apply with as much force to our own country. (Hear.) In fact, the voluntary system had been the great means by which religion and education had been most effectually carried on in England. Men ought not to imagine that the past times were so much better than the present, or that the future would not be as able to take care of itself as that in which we live. Such an idea was one of the great barriers to the advancement of this question. (Hear.) Mr. Ayrton also expressed his satisfaction at the course which had been taken by Sir William Clay, and trusted that the measure of the honourable baronet would speedily become the law of the land, assured, as he was, that the entire abolition of Church-rates would materially aid in the bringing about of that still greater object which the friends of this association were labouring to accomplish. (Cheers.) He concluded by cordially moving the resolution.

LAWRENCE HAYWORTH, Esq., M.P., seconded it, alluding briefly to the progress which the question had made during the last few years, both in the House of Commons and throughout the country. He illustrated this fact by mentioning the circumstance, that the member for Oxfordshire, who had been for many years a most tenacious supporter of Church-rates, had that very day been speaking in the House for three hours and five minutes in praise of the voluntary principle. (Laughter and cheers.) Surely the friends of this Association might draw encouragement from such a fact to prosecute the course upon which they had entered. The honourable gentleman then referred in detail to the various educational bills now before Parliament, and besought the friends of free religion throughout the country to assist, by petition or otherwise, in the defeat of all these schemes, which he did not doubt would operate, if adopted, adversely to the civil and religious liberties of the country.

The Rev. J. GAWTHORPE, of Derby, having, in a few words, supported the resolution, it was passed unanimously; and at this point the collection was made.

The Rev. J. H. HINTON said the motion which he had to submit to the meeting related to Maynooth—a Roman Catholic College for the training of priests, endowed by Act of the British Parliament. The motion, of course, was adverse to the continuance of this endowment. (Hear, hear.) Now, some one would say, perhaps, that he had made an invidious selection for the object of his attack; why, it might be asked, should he single out a particular endowment, when there were so many; and why a Roman Catholic endowment especially, as though to assist in the assault by the *odious theologicum?* Well, then, to satisfy lovers of impartiality—and as fair play is a jewel—he would associate in his motion two other endowments, or practically such—the one, the ministers' money, for the Episcopalian, and the other, the *Regium Donum*, for the Presbyterians in Ireland—and thus he would have at them altogether. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) But then, again, somebody might say, why take Ireland particularly, the feeblest, and the sorest point—why not take religious endowments at large, where they are better conditioned? (Hear, hear.) Well, then, he would comprehend in his motion, "all religious endowments whatever." (Cheers.) If he submitted a motion against Irish religious endowments, it was because he disapproved of all State religious endowments of all kinds, and in all places. (Hear, hear.) But, then, with this general aversion to religious endowments by the State, he must select a particular point for attack; he could not invest, so as to attack all religious endowments at once, any more than the Allies, with their immense forces could invest all sides of Sebastopol. (Cheers.) He selected one, therefore, and he selected Maynooth. Not, however, because it was a Roman Catholic endowment. (Hear, hear.) Not that he didn't hate Popery—for he did, and that most heartily, believing that he had many good reasons for regarding it with the deepest abhorrence. And yet, it was not because this endowment to Maynooth was a Roman Catholic one that he selected it for the object of attack, nor was it because he thought it did much mischief, although he did believe it to be most mischievous, notwithstanding that pretty good care had been taken by the late commissioners that the mischief which it does shall not be known. (Hear, hear.) It really did seem as if they had been cooking the evidence, and not only allowing it to be revised and corrected by Roman Catholic functionaries in this country, but had let it go to Rome to be roasted, boiled, fricassee, and otherwise treated there, that all objectionable matter might be sifted out of it by their High Mightinesses the cardinals—forgive the blasphemy—and by the Pope himself. ("Hear," and cries of "Shame!") That was inquiry with a vengeance—a vengeance, let me say, which ought to fall heavily on the Commissioners who had been guilty of the deed. (Cheers.) And to make the matter worse, we had also paid them for their work. (Laughter.) They ought to disgorge the money at any rate, especially upon the condition of escaping severer treatment. (Loud cheers.) However, it was not because Maynooth did much mischief that he selected it as an object of attack, but for two other distinct reasons—the first was, the condition which it occupies. It was like the Malakoff Tower at Sebastopol, standing out as one of the exterior defences—a sort of key to the position of State endowment of religion. He did not know that Sir Robert Peel, wily as he was, and talented too, ever acknowledged it, but he (Mr. Hinton) believed that Sir Robert Peel's reason for passing the Act endowing Maynooth was to erect a buttress for the support of the Irish Church. He thought there was danger there, and that this Act might minister to the longer security of that Church. Well, then, this was one reason why he (Mr. Hinton) would wish to have the grant repealed, because he did not want the Irish Church to have any buttress. (Cheers.) He sincerely desired that it might fall, as well as the endowment to Maynooth. (Cheers.) Then he had another reason—namely, that the circumstances of the time are favourable to it. There was a movement now, in the House and out of the House, for the repeal of the Act endowing Maynooth. (Hear, hear.) They all knew what an extended and comprehensive alliance there existed and was going on in the country; and he for one should be sorry to see such a movement progressing without taking part in it. (Hear, hear.) It was not only the thing to be got rid of that must be considered, but also the proper time to do the work—when there is a large amount of feeling favourable for the repeal of the Act. And this was so now, even among the Roman Catholics themselves. Some of them see plainly that, while they take the money they must hold their tongues, and restrain their action. And this was the time, therefore, he thought, when the repeal of this Act should be sought; and he should regret the circumstance of that meeting not throwing its influence into the right scale. But he would be likely to have it said to him—"If you repeal the Act by which Maynooth is endowed you will not be content; you have ulterior objects in view; you want to sever the connexion between the Protestant Church in Ireland and the State." "Yes," he would reply, "I do." (Cheers.) He confessed that he was attacking the weakest first, in order to get more strength for assaulting the stronger, and then to separate the Church of England from all State patronage and control, and to reduce England, in this respect, to what the United States are, and the English colony of Canada is. That he confessed to be his aim. (Cheers.) One reason for desiring such a consummation was

personal. These national Churches were abominably oppressive. (Cheers.) There was no man, woman, or child, in England but was the worse for our Church Establishment. (Cheers.) It was felt throughout society to be a social nuisance which ought to be abated and abolished. (Loud applause.) Then the second reason, which was, that he believed it to be injurious to truth. (Hear, hear.) These endowments did not allow either truth or falsehood to have fair play; they gave to falsehood a fictitious strength, and to truth a fictitious weakness. (Hear, hear.) They kept rotten things alive that ought to die, while the Voluntary system allowed everything to pass away that could not live by its own inherent virtue. These endowments, on the contrary, when systems were about to die, came and embalmed, and fomented, and poulticed them, and did all sorts of foolish things to keep them in existence, instead of allowing them to pass quietly to their graves. (Laughter and cheers.) Now, he held truth and falsehood to be two great giants in the world, and he would put no unnatural fetters on either of them; both naked let them fight, and let the right win the day. (Loud cheers.) He would now read his motion:—

That this meeting, being opposed to the endowment of religion by the State in every form, objects to the tax termed "Ministers' Money" levied for the benefit of Irish Episcopalian clergymen, to the *Regium Donum* received by Irish Presbyterian ministers, and to the endowment possessed by the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth. That believing that this last-named endowment was increased by the Act of 1845 for the purpose of strengthening the Irish Church Establishment, it desires the repeal of such act, as at once right in itself, and as calculated to hasten the withdrawal of State patronage and support from all other religious communities in Ireland.

EDWARD MALL, Esq., M.P., could say "ditto" to Mr. Hinton's speech, although he would not, perhaps, say ditto to every expression that his speech contained. If there was one feature of that association which, more than another, recommended it to his sympathy and choice, it was this—that he could stand upon its platform and argue everything that he wished to argue on behalf of the objects of the association in concurrence with his colleagues, who might be Episcopalian, or Dissenters, Roman Catholics, or Jews, or, if they would, entire infidels. (Hear, hear.) The sole object of the Association, as he understood it, was not to contend as to what is truth, but for its proper position. (Hear, hear.) He and his friends asserted, that the only suitable position which truth can occupy, in relation to the community at large, is this—that it shall stand upon its own merits; that it shall exert its own influence; that it shall be dependent upon nothing that is extraneous and accidental for its success. (Hear, hear.) That was the only object of this association. If so, it might be asked, Why do you select a particular religious denomination upon which to bring to bear the operation of your principle? Now, this question he thought he could answer with satisfaction to everybody. He did not attack Maynooth, but the principle of endowment. There was a great deal to be said in favour, not of Maynooth, or of the endowment of that college, but of the position which the Roman Catholic occupies in relation to the general dealings of the Legislature with regard to ecclesiastical endowments. We must remember, that the Roman Catholics possessed, some centuries ago, the entire ecclesiastical endowments of Ireland, and that they were not dispossessed of them by a prevailing spirit of enlightenment and the diffusion of better knowledge, but that they were simply ousted by the civil power, and had consequently suffered grievous persecution. We must remember, moreover, that it was not contrary to the dictates and dogmas of their own Church to receive State support for the maintenance of religion; and that they might, therefore, in perfect consistency with all the principles they hold, claim this Maynooth endowment as some restitution of the property which has been wrested from them. (Hear.) But what was the case with our Protestant Christian Legislature? Why, they were giving a grant to a religion that is antagonistic to the one which was held to be the religion of the country; and they were doing so, according to Lord John Russell's interpretation, for two reasons,—as in part a restitution of the property which has been taken from the Roman Catholics, and as an earnest of our better temper in respect to them. Now, every one knew that the Maynooth Endowment Act was passed as the narrow end of the wedge, and that both the Whigs and Tories of that time were agreed in the opinion, that the only way permanently to save ecclesiastical endowments was to share them among all denominations who would receive them. (Hear, hear.) Happily, and he thanked God for it,—the people of this country had the honesty, and he might say, the religious instinct, to be misled by no such spurious liberality as that. (Cheers.) But, having passed this Endowment Act, had the Government given satisfaction to the Roman Catholic body? He should despise the Roman Catholics of Ireland if they had taken this petty instalment as a compensation for all they had lost; for, if we were to go on the principle of religious equality, it surely meant that all privileges were to be shared alike. He wondered in his very heart how it was that the Roman Catholics were so far taken in as to receive the endowment at all. They might possibly have been misled into the notion that the people of the United Kingdom were going to give up to the Roman Catholic Church all the ecclesiastical property which had originally belonged to it. (Laughter.) However, if they had thought so they soon found out their mistake. (Hear, hear.) He considered it to be the duty of those seeking the separation of Church and State to aid in the repeal of this grant simply on this ground, that it was the only way by which they could come at their ultimate object, especially as it regarded the Irish Church. Maynooth was not exactly the Malakoff tower, but the earthwork thrown up in front of it

because it did not really belong to the system of fortification which they were seeking to demolish. It was not a part of the stronghold, but something intended to break the force of the attacking party, in order to save that which is behind it. (Hear.) They would never be able to get at the Church Establishment of Ireland unless they first cleared the ground in front of it by abolishing the Roman Catholic endowment of Maynooth, the Episcopal Ministers' Money, and the Presbyterian *Regium Donum*. Without going fully into the subject, he might just observe how these endowments hung upon each other. Thoroughly antagonistic as were the Roman Catholics and the Presbyterians, the Maynooth Endowment Act was no sooner assailed than the Presbyterians in Parliament voted in favour of it; and whenever the *Donum* was attacked, the Roman Catholics came to the rescue. On all such occasions, Mr. Cairns and Mr. Lucas went into the same lobby; and why?—because they knew that union was strength. (Laughter.) The Liberation Society selected Maynooth, therefore, because they could get at it most easily; and when they had overcome that endowment, there could be little doubt that the whole of the Roman Catholic members would feel it to be not only their interest, but their duty to go against the *Regium Donum*; and whenever the *Regium Donum* was settled, he expected that the Irish Presbyterians would feel it their duty to go against all endowments whatever. (Laughter and cheers.) This, said Mr. Miall, is the gradual process of conversion that we aim at. By putting people into our position, we make them feel the strength of our argument. If we only abstract from them the Government gold which they receive, they can see with as much clearness and force as we profess to see the ultimate object we have in view; and, most assuredly, this seems to me to be the only direct mode in which we can arrive at the solution of our great problem. (Cheers.) I confess that, when this question came before the House of Commons, two or three sessions ago, I voted against Mr. Spooner, because I would not select an isolated denomination for the purpose of showing the strength of my own principle; and I did so with a view to make that principle understood in all its fairness and impartiality in the House where it was very ill understood, and where it was previously greatly misrepresented. (Hear, hear.) And he had no hesitation in saying, that the Roman Catholic members did now fully understand the principle on which the Volunteers acted, although they did vote for the motion of Mr. Spooner, who brought it forward, however, on other and very different grounds. (Hear.) He could not doubt that the effect of that motion, should it be successful, would tend very materially to undermine the foundation of the Irish, if not the English Church Establishment. He had said this to Mr. Spooner himself. That gentleman, however, did not see the matter in this light, but replied, 'I believe, at any rate, that the Maynooth endowment is wrong; and I would go against it whether it is brought down my own Church or not.' (Loud cheers.) Under these circumstances, Mr. Miall thought they were not only justified, but bound to improve the opportunities thus furnished to them by others, of advancing the principles which they held. (Hear.) It was not for them to stand aside for ever, and say we will not attack this or that endowment alone because we cannot take them altogether. It was only by shooting at one thing at a time that they could hope to bring any of them down; and in every case where they obtained a victory, they would get likewise an advance of strength. Let it ever be remembered by the friends of that society, that every step they made was a step towards the attainment of a more solid and impregnable position, and that whosoever they conquered in this battle they made fellow-workers in their cause. (Cheers.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

WILLIAM EDWARDS, Esq., Treasurer of the Society, then moved a vote of thanks to the Chair, which was seconded, and carried by acclamation.

The meeting separated at half-past nine o'clock.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Wednesday last, in Exeter Hall; the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. There was as usual a very large attendance; and among those present were the Marquis of Cholmondeley; Bishop of Meath, Cashel, and Melbourn; Lord Calthorpe; Viscount Ebrington; Hon. and Rev. J. T. Pelham; Hon. and Rev. H. M. Villiers; several foreigners from the East; Rev. Norman McLeod; Rev. Joshua Harrison; John Henderson, Esq., of Park, &c., &c. A portion of Scripture having been read,

The CHAIRMAN briefly addressed the meeting, in the course of which he congratulated the friends of the society that, notwithstanding this time of war and difficulties, its income was larger this year than at any period except the year of jubilee, and that there had been a larger circulation of the copies of God's Holy Word than in any other year since the foundation of the society. (Cheers.) He was most deeply convinced by every day's experience—the more he saw, be it in high or in low places, be it in public or in private, be it within the walls of Parliament or without the walls of Parliament, that the prosperity, not to say the existence, of the British empire, as an empire, depended upon the depth and the vitality of her religious societies. (Applause.)

The SECRETARY then read the Report. It commenced with the remark that, in almost every department of the society's associations there had been enlargement during the past year. From the depot at Paris the total issues in the year were 109,235 copies of the Scriptures, being an increase of 18,783

over those of the preceding year. The number of copies distributed in Germany was 77,655. The arrangements made last year for conducting the depots in Belgium and Holland had proved satisfactory. The issues from Brussels were 27,900, Amsterdam, 20,000, Breslau, 32,000. In Switzerland and North Italy the issues amounted to 20,639, the sales by the agent having nearly doubled. In the autumn of last year the agent paid a visit to the island of Sardinia, where he established three depots. Five thousand copies were distributed within the year in the kingdom of Sardinia. At Stockholm there was an increase of 19,429 over the issues of the preceding year. The committee congratulated the meeting on the fact that the Archbishop of Florence had lately published an edition of Martin's version of the New Testament, with notes. The agent at Malta announced that the Scriptures had been forwarded during the year to Aleppo, Alexandria, Corfu, Tunis, and other places in the Mediterranean, the total number of issues being 12,467. Constantinople had become an important sphere of Bible labour, not only on account of the religious movements which Turkey had experienced, but on account, also, of its proximity to the seat of war. The agent at Smyrna, Mr. Barker, was therefore removed, some months ago, to Constantinople, where he soon found opportunities of disseminating the Scriptures. Among the incidents mentioned, was a case in which the Colonel of a French regiment in the Bosphorus, undertook to distribute fifty copies among his men. The committee had authorised Mr. Barker to provide for the distribution of the Scriptures in the Danubian provinces, and the supply of all connected with the allied armies in the Crimea. Two colporteurs had been sent out, one to supply the Scriptures to our own troops, the other to supply them to the French. With regard to Russia, it was stated that in consequence of the disturbed state of the capital, the society's agent, the Rev. Mr. Ellerby, had been compelled to resign his charge and return to England. The stock belonging to the society was left to the care of a gentleman residing at St. Petersburg. The issues in that city during the year amounted to 6,818 copies. The correspondent stated that, after some consideration, he determined to offer 500 copies of the Slavonian Testaments on hand to the Grand Duchess Helen, for distribution among the sick and wounded soldiers of Russia, and that the result was that the Duchess accepted the offer, and undertook to have the 500 copies distributed at her own expense. In India there had been a larger circulation than in any previous year. The issues at Calcutta amounted to 56,032, at Madras to 56,000, at Bombay to 8,359. The committee would be glad to be able to report a greater distribution of the million of copies of the Chinese New Testament, but the work had been impeded for want of openings and agents. No event had occurred in the past year which essentially changed the condition of the empire. The bishop and the missionaries in China were strongly of opinion that, under existing circumstances, it was undesirable to hasten the printing of larger numbers of the Scriptures than they had the means of distributing; especially as in case they were not circulated, they would inevitably be destroyed by damp and insects. In order to facilitate the work of distribution, 1,000l. had been voted for additional colportage. A second edition of the Rātongá Bible complete, had just left the press. The friends of the society in the West Indies, had been actively engaged during the year. The committee of the American Bible Society announced in their report, that the year had been marked by a largely-increased demand for the Scriptures. Eighty-two new auxiliaries had been formed, and the issue amounted to 815,399, making the total from the commencement, 9,300,000. Large orders had been received during the year from British North America; Toronto alone required to be supplied with 35,000 copies. The amount applicable to the general purposes of the society was 64,878l. 7s. 3d., being 5,221l. 18s. 7d. more than in the preceding year. The amount received for Bibles and Testaments was 59,600l. 2s. 3d., making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income 124,478l. 9s. 6d. To the above must be added the sum of 3,694l. 4s. 11d., further contributions to the Jubilee Fund, and also 7,860l. 1s. 3d. to the Chinese New Testament Fund; making a grand total of 136,032l. 15s. 8d. The issues of the Society for the year were as follows: From the depot at home, 1,018,882; from depots abroad, 431,994; total, 1,450,876 copies, being an increase of 88,348 over those of last year. The total issues of the Society now amounted to 29,389,507 copies. The expenditure of the year has amounted to 149,040l. 13s. 9d. From 35 to 40,000 copies of the Scriptures had been forwarded to Ireland. There had been forwarded to the Naval and Military Bible Society in connexion with the war 53,000 copies; to the Constantinople depot, 34,000; to the Paris depots, 34,000; to other societies and depots, 18,000 copies; to Miss Nightingale 60 copies, with permission to draw supplied to an indefinite extent from the depots at Constantinople; and various numbers to other individuals; while the prisoners of war had not been neglected. In conclusion, the committee urged on the friends of the society the necessity for continued and incessant exertions.

The Bishop of MEATH, in moving the adoption of the Report, said it was so varied, so interesting, and so Christian, that any speech however animated, and any orator however varied, must fall dead and heavy upon their ears. He was glad to be identified in some degree with the principles and practice of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and he willingly came forward to pledge himself, by every means in his power, and by his prayers and exertions, that he would seek to forward its interests; and he felt it a privilege to spend and be spent for the cause of the Bible,

which was the cause of the God of the Bible. (Hear, hear.)

Viscount EBRINGTON, in seconding the resolution, said, they had learned, from the Report, that large portions of the earth, until recently, were impenetrably closed against the entrance of God's Word, but that they had now been wonderfully and happily opened to the operations of the society. Among the millions of China the Word of God was being circulated, now the exclusive system which had been for centuries adopted in that country had been partially broken down. He thought, on these accounts, they had great occasion to be thankful, and to take courage in doing a work which they had every reason to hope God would accompany with His favour and blessing. But there still was another reason why they should redouble their labours. In the region of what was called Christendom, was there greater occasion for the free circulation and diligent study of the undefined fountains of truth than in any other part of the world. When he who insolently claimed to be God's Vicegerent on earth had recently promulgated a new and unscriptural doctrine, surely it was more necessary than ever that they should search the Scriptures and be able to give a reason for the faith that was in them. (Hear, hear.) While shallow reasoners, proceeding upon a false and baseless philosophy, were endeavouring to explain away the account which God had given of His dealings with mankind, and in calling in question the Scriptural account of the creation; when miracles were being treated in the same manner, and when Scripture narratives were being treated as mere human myths, at such a time it was more necessary than ever that they should turn from the shallowness of man's wisdom, and adhere to the deep fountains of everlasting truth. (Applause.)

M'LEOD WYLIE, Esq., of Calcutta, adverted especially to the work of the society in India. He said: I believe I may say that among the whole of the 150,000,000 inhabitants of India, the whole of the present generation during the last twenty years, there have not been circulated altogether one million of copies. (Hear.) I believe that from the commencement, that is, during two or three generations, from the time of Dr. Carey, there have been circulated scarcely two million copies among an aggregate of five hundred million people, or about half the aggregate population of the globe at the present moment. (Hear, hear.) The Scriptures have been translated and printed, and, if I may so express myself, all things have been ready with the exception of agents to distribute the Word of God. A little time ago, we found in Calcutta that it had been stated in evidence given before the House of Commons, that although the Bible was not introduced into the Government schools in India, yet it was placed in the library of every Government school and college. We knew that to be a mistake. I believe the mistake was perfectly unintentional; and we at once addressed a letter to the President of the Council of Education, in which we said: "This statement is an error, but we now offer you a Bible in the vernacular language." (Hear, hear.) The Council did not deny that they introduced into every library the Koran and the Vedas, but notwithstanding that, they refused to admit the Bible. Strange to say, the ink with which their resolution was recorded, was scarcely dry when there arrived from the Court of Directors a despatch on the subject of education, which in one of its paragraphs took it for granted that the Bible was in every one of the libraries. I am thankful to be able to say that another part of that despatch abolished the Council of Education. My Lord, while the work in India has met with hindrances, it has also been accompanied with many gratifying encouragements, and I cannot proceed further without adverting to the presence of a native Christian friend from Calcutta, who can testify to the value of the circulation of the Scriptures, having in his own person derived benefit from it. (Cheers.) [The speaker was understood to refer to a young Hindoo, who was on the platform.] I might also refer to another example of the same kind, in the person of the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, a son of that ruler of the Sikhs, with whom, only a few years ago, this country was engaged in a fierce struggle, in the course of which it fought some of the most critical battles recorded in its history.

The Bishop of MELBOURNE supported the resolution in an earnest and catholic speech, from which the following is an extract: The British and Foreign Bible Society has done much in uniting Christian brethren in England who differ from one another upon subordinate points of doctrine and particulars of Church-government, but who are agreed with one another upon all the great doctrines of the Gospel. If the society has done much in England, I can testify that it has done much in the colonies, at least in that particular colony with which I am myself connected. That colony contains a population consisting of many Scotch Presbyterians, English Baptists, and English Wesleyans; and I need not say to you that, born as some of us have been in different countries, and brought up under different systems of worship, in different branches of the Church of Christ, there was much to separate us from one another. Yet, my friends, I thank God that I can number among my friends clergymen and laymen of the Established Church of Scotland and of the Free Church, and also ministers and laymen of the Wesleyan, Independent, and Baptist denominations—(applause)—and I owe this to the British and Foreign Bible Society. (Hear, hear.) I have the honour of being president of our Colonial Association. I make a point, whenever I am in Melbourne, of attending the meetings of the committee. At these meetings I see many lay and clerical brethren of these different denominations. They converse with one another, and consult together upon the best mode of circulating the Scriptures; they pray together, and they learn to feel that their differences upon

subordinate points of doctrine and of Church-government may consist with a common love of the Saviour, and a common zeal for the propagation of the truth as it is in Jesus. (Hear, hear.) Speaking, then, simply as a Christian man, I recommend the British and Foreign Bible Society to your support on this ground; for I feel it has conferred a benefit upon myself. I alluded just now to the Rev. J. Angell James. He is a minister of a Congregational Church, and I am a clergyman of an Episcopalian Church. He thinks, I believe, an Established Church to be an evil; I am not blind to some of the evils connected with our Church; yet I can thank God for the existence of the Established Church of England. These, so far as I know, are the only points of difference between Mr. James and myself. What are the points of agreement between us? They are all the great doctrines of the Christian faith and Christian practice. (Applause.) Are we content to remain strangers to one another in the flesh, that is, if God should bring us together? I hold no sympathy with those who would be content to continue in a state of separation from others who are agreed with them on those great points and who are carrying on, as they believe, the great work of the Gospel. Does my Church-membership require me to separate from such a man as I have mentioned? No, I thank God that it does not. (Applause.) I am sure that if the clergy and members of that particular branch of the Church to which I belong, and the members of other Churches, would set aside the prejudices which, in a great measure, separate them from one another, and would work together really and heartily for the prevention of evil and the progress of that which is true and good, I believe the Christian people of England and the Christian Churches of England would exercise a very different influence from that which it now exercises upon the Legislature and the Government.

The Hon. and Rev. Mr. PELHAM moved the second resolution:—

That this meeting desires to rejoice in the multiplied proofs of prosperity and extended labour which have marked the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society during the past year; and it cannot observe the highly satisfactory state of the finances—the number of copies issued, so far surpassing that of any previous period—the increased desire evinced in many parts of the world for the Holy Scriptures, and the enlarged facilities for their diffusion—without expressing its devout thankfulness to God, and its sense of dependence on His favour and help in the prosecution of the great work of the society; while at the same time it would give utterance to the hope that the calamitous events now occurring in the world may speedily pass away, and be overruled by Divine Providence for opening to the free circulation of the Scripture countries which have been wholly or partially closed against their admission.

The Rev. NORMAN MCLEOD ably seconded the resolution. He said: I have heard with great joy the remarks of the Right Reverend Prelate near me, respecting the catholicity of this society. (Hear, hear.) The night before last, my Lord, about twelve o'clock, I found myself a member of the Established Church of Scotland; but about ten minutes after, before I had my Highland plaid well wrapped round me, I found I was a Dissenting clergyman, for I had passed the Tweed. (Laughter.) Surely not by such accidents as these are men to be united in this world. Surely we are to be united by far deeper bonds. We have a number of regiments out in the Crimea; some of them attacking Sebastopol with large guns, some are burying themselves in holes and attacking it with rifles; some ride upon horses, some march on foot; but all of them rally round the flag of old England, without an exception. And so, in our Churches, we all rally round one flag—the open Word of God; and we have one rallying cry, "Peace on earth, and good will toward men." (Applause.) We attach a greater value to the Bible than all other books under heaven, because it speaks to us of the living God, because it is a faithful record of what He hath actually said, actually done, actually commanded in His education of the human race, in redeeming them from the power of Satan and bringing them through Christ Jesus unto himself. (Applause.) The Bible has been tried, and I am not aware that it has ever failed. It has been tried by savage nations; it has given to them a civilisation that nothing else could give. It has been tried by civilised nations, and it has been found always in advance of the last stage of progression at which they have arrived. It has been tried by philosophy, and it has been found to be deeper than all our philosophies put together. It has been tried by the poor and by the beggar; it has been tried by yourself, my lord, as a member of the House of Peers, and by the poor ragged-school child that you have taken from darkness and crime; and I am sure that you will confess that it has elevated you both. (Applause.) It has been tried by human consciences and human affections, and it has never failed to find man in the depth of his being and to lift him up and make him a child of God; it has been tried by prophecy, and the mounds of Nineveh, and the waste marshes of Babylon, and the lonely rocks of Tyre, with the nets spread over them, and desolate Jerusalem, with her wandering people, all declare and testify that this is the Word of God. (Applause.) Why should not Islam, like the thief on the cross, just before ending its wretched existence, breathe forth the prayer, "Lord, remember even me when thou comest into Thy kingdom?" So when Christ's kingdom comes—and coming it is in the East—Islam may be converted to the faith of the living God; and if it is converted, we know through what instrumentality it will be—through the instrumentality of the sacred Scriptures. (Hear, hear.) I value Churches, I value the instrumentality of living men, because I believe it is Christ's instrumentality; and yet there is a breadth and depth in the marvellous teaching of the Word of God, far beyond us all. I trust that nothing shall keep us back from this great work that the Lord has given us to do. Changes are taking place. The Lord alone knows what state we may be in a few years,

what state Italy may be in, what state Poland may be in, what state Austria may be in; but amidst all these changes, this is the blessing—the Word of God abideth for ever. (Applause.)

The Rev. JOHN FARRAR supported the resolution in a brief address; and it was unanimously carried.

The Rev. J. C. HARRISON moved:—

That this meeting would tender a renewed and sincere tribute of gratitude to the officers, committees, and collectors of the various auxiliaries, branches, and associations throughout the country and the colonies, to whose untiring zeal and energy the society owes its large increase of free contributions during the past year; and would earnestly entreat a continuance of their efficient and valuable services.

He advocated the claims of the Bible Society, especially on the ground of what it had been the means of actually accomplishing for the world. He sketched at some length the origin and history of the various English translations, from Wycliffe onwards; and contended that the present social and political state of Great Britain, as well as its superior religious position among the nations of Europe, was largely, if not entirely, to be ascribed to the influence of the Word of God.

The Rev. WILLIAM GILL, of the London Missionary Society, formerly Missionary at Raratonga, seconded the Resolution. He said, that the volume which had just been presented to their honoured president was the first copy of the second edition of the entire Scriptures in the Raratonga language. He was sure that it would be regarded by the Earl of Shaftesbury as a circumstance of deep and peculiar interest. ("Hear, hear," from his lordship.) The details of the history of that translation were very remarkable. Raratonga was the principal island of the Harvey group, in the South Seas; and it was 700 miles from the Tahitian group. Some thirty-two years ago the entire inhabitants of that group of islands were among the most degraded savages. At that period one of the missionaries connected with the London Missionary Society went to visit that group, and had the honour of landing the first native teacher from Tahiti. That native was born a heathen, and educated in idolatry; but being converted by the power of the blessed Word of God, he began to preach in the Tahitian language, and earnestly desired to go forth and proclaim to his fellow-men the Gospel of Christ. Notwithstanding the fact of the great danger which any one ran of being brutally murdered by the cannibals of Raratonga, this young man was resolved to attempt the work of evangelising its degraded inhabitants. He was accordingly taken out, with a number of others, to the island; but so fearful was the character of its barbarous people, that every one of the ship's company feared to land. The young man referred to, however, said, "Live or die, put me on shore." (Hear, hear.) He just gathered a few clothes together, and in his handkerchief bound up a few extracts from the pages of Scripture; portions of the Gospel of St. Mark, St. Peter, and other parts of the New Testament, and descended the side of the little boat that was to put him as near to the shore as it was thought prudent to go. He then leaped into the surf, and landed amid seven or eight thousand savages, and was the first man to tell of the true God and the only Saviour.

At that time the people had no idea whatever of letters, characters, or signs, to signify the sounds of their spoken language, and the devoted man had no means of instructing them in the art of writing. He was, however, so exceedingly anxious to communicate the knowledge of letters, that he devised the plan of strewing sand upon a board and writing thereon with a twig, the words Jehovah, Jesus Christ, and the like. (Hear, hear.) For three years after this period it was considered unsafe for any European Missionary to land upon the island. But in the year 1834 Mr. Williams had brought home to this country a complete copy of the New Testament translated into the language of that group; and the British and Foreign Bible Society had generously offered to put 5,000 copies of it through the press. (Hear, hear.) Seven years ago, it was his (Mr. Gill's) honour to follow that devoted man in his former sphere of labour, and to take out the first edition of the New Testament. In 1846 the Rev. Mr. Buzacott brought home to this country the complete Bible, from Genesis to Revelations, in MS. It was presented, my Lord, to your committee, and they most generously aided Mr. Buzacott in putting through the press an edition of 5,000. The first edition was taken out to those islands in the year 1852; and I shall never forget the landing of the first entire edition of the Holy Scriptures on those islands. There are six islands in that group; and as the boxes of the Bibles were landed, the people were most enthusiastic in their desires to have them opened. Box after box was taken into each of the chapels in the settlement, and opened there, amidst the praises and the prayers of the people; and it was my honour last year to bring home to your committee, my Lord, 250L, the amount of money received in nine months from these islanders; and they are now, I believe, sending home in our missionary ship, which we expect next month, some two or three hundred pounds more, to encourage this society to go on with its work. (Applause.) Since my arrival in this country, the committee hinted to me that they were prepared to put a second edition of the entire Raratongan Scriptures through the press. That work, my Lord, in company with your devoted and valuable—yea, invaluable—agent, the Rev. Mr. Mellon, of Woodbridge, it has been my honour to complete last year, and it forms the volume which has been presented to you to-day. My Lord, it is only forty-five years ago since the first idol fell in the island of Tahiti. There were nine large and small islands in that group, having a population of from 90,000 to 100,000 souls; and for the last thirty years there has not been the least vestige of idolatry or heathenism seen in that group. It was my honour to take out the first copy

of the entire Scriptures to the Tahitian groups seventeen years ago; the second edition of the entire Tahitian Scriptures was sent out in the year 1847; and no sooner were they delivered among the people than that people, oppressed, and tormented, and agitated, and confused as they have been by what has been called a French protectorate, and tempted by all the arts and wiles of Popery to renounce the doctrines of the Bible, bought these copies of the Bible with intense interest, and the very year after, I believe, sent home to the committee a thousand pounds, in payment for them; and it is only, my Lord, about two months ago that a letter was received from those distant and oppressed islands, requesting the committee to give them a third edition, and that as their missionaries are now banished from their presence, the committee would allow marginal references to be added, that they might compare Scripture with Scripture. (Applause.) It is reported that Queen Pomare is coming to France this year, to visit the Crystal Palace, by the express invitation of the Emperor. Oh! endeavour, my Christian friends, as you read the history of the Bible connected with the islands of the South Seas, to realise, if you can, the circumstances of temptation and distress through which that honoured woman has passed. (Applause.) It is said she is coming to France; but let it be remembered as our glory, and as the glory of the Bible, and let us give the glory to God, that if she comes she still comes as a Protestant Queen. Some 1,800 miles down, in what is called the New Hebrides group, and on the very island where Williams and Harris shed their blood, in attempts to land native teachers, there our native converts from Raratonga and Samoa went, about six or seven years ago. Now you find there the Sabbath observed and schools instituted, and the man that murdered Williams is being taught to read the Word of God by a native from Raratonga, whose father was among the first men to receive that man that landed there thirty years ago. My Lord, I have near my side a son of that native that landed at Raratonga; and he, with the whole of his generation from about eight years of age, have to be told what heathenism and idolatry are, as much as you have in this country. He had come to this country to see an idol, in the missionary museum. (Applause.)

J. FARMER, Esq., moved, and the Rev. J. H. GURNEY seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which having been duly acknowledged, the proceedings terminated.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The fifty-sixth anniversary meeting of this society was held on Tuesday morning in the Large Room, Exeter Hall. The chair was taken at ten o'clock by the Earl of CHICHESTER, the President of the Society. The hall was completely filled. After the reading of a portion of Scripture,

The Noble CHAIRMAN, who was suffering from an affection of the throat, made a few observations.

The Rev. JOHN VENN then read the Report, which stated that the total income received in the United Kingdom was 107,343L, whereas the expenditure had been 116,256L, being an increase of expenditure over income of 8,913L; and deducting a balance in hand at the beginning of last year, this year commences with a debt of 5,621L. The exertions of the friends abroad, especially in North India, had been most noble, and had raised no less than 16,917L, which added to the amount collected in Great Britain, made a grand total of 124,260L, being the largest amount ever received. But as the sums raised abroad were all expended in the Missions, the debt upon the society remained the same. At Smyrna, a missionary and a native teacher labour, and circulate the Scriptures in the Turkish and Armenian languages and many other religious books, by the means of porteurs. The Palestine mission comprises as its five stations, Jerusalem, Sychar, Joppa, Nazareth, and Bethlehem. The committee have received from Bombay an address signed by the Bishop and chaplains, and a large number of the highest officers in the company, in the civil, naval, and military services, pleading earnestly for an extension of the society's operations in that presidency, on behalf of 15,000,000 of unevangelised heathen. The committee are thankful to say, that they have been able to strengthen their mission by several new agents. The statistical returns from all the stations in North India show that there are now more than 7,500 native Christians, being an increase of more than 400 in the year. The last statistical returns of South India show that there are now more than 22,000 baptised and registered native Christians in connexion with this society, besides 11,500 under instruction, with a view to baptism, making a total of 33,500; that these are distributed in 539 villages, possessing 384 places of public worship, and that the communicants exceed 5,000. The Report states, in conclusion, that it is the solemn conviction of the committee that retrenchment cannot be carried further without impairing the efficiency of the missions; and that no further saving can be made without either giving up stations, or diminishing the number of labourers. The Society had connected with it 121 stations, 189 clergymen, 39 schoolmasters, &c.; 11 European female teachers (exclusive of missionaries' wives); 1,697 native and country-born catechists and teachers of all classes, and 17,899 communicants. The Bishop of Meath, the Dean of Carlisle, the Rev. Francis Close, the Rev. E. H. Bickersteth, Mr. Macleod Wylie, magistrate of Calcutta; the Bishop of Melbourne, the Earl of Shaftesbury, and the Rev. Canon Miller, of Birmingham, successively addressed the meeting. A note was read from the Archbishop of Canterbury, expressing his concern at the difficulties of the society, and enclosing a cheque of 100L.

In the course of his speech, the Dean of CARLISLE said,

in allusion to the Universities: Only last year we passed through a great reform at Oxford, and Cambridge is now undergoing a similar ordeal. May we not trust that, among the changes introduced, one will be the establishment of a missionary college in each of our great Universities? (Loud applause.) This would not only do much to advance the cause of missions, but do much more to advance the cause of religion itself within these seats of learning. We know that other persons have lately united themselves together for the purpose of establishing a new place of instruction within the University of Oxford. It has been thought that the best way of advancing their peculiar religious opinion is to establish under the recent Act of Parliament a new hall in the University of Oxford. Now, I cannot see why such a hall should not be established as would have for its purpose, the training of missionaries for the East.

Archdeacon HUNTER, from North-Western America, related several interesting facts including the following: The resolution says that the society is anxious to raise up native ministers to foreign lands. In North-Western America we have three native ordained ministers of the Gospel. Thirty-five years ago, your first missionary, Mr. West, went out, and took a boy home with him from the Red River, and taught him this prayer: "Great Father, bless me, through Jesus Christ our Lord;" and in writing home, Mr. West expressed his hope that God would hear the prayer of that boy. God has heard that prayer. That boy was your first scholar, your first catechist and schoolmaster; he is now the first native ordained minister of the Gospel in North-west America. (Applause.) Henry Budd, was associated with me for ten years in the Cumberland district, and I have left him in charge of my native congregation, ministering on the banks of the Kisiskatchewan river, 300 miles removed from our head-quarters, to a people who have all been baptized, and the majority of whom are abiding the doctrines of God by their holy and consistent lives. (Applause.) There is a native ministry arising up in North America, and several schoolmasters are preparing for the work of the ministry.

PROTESTANT ALLIANCE.

The annual meeting of this society was held at St. Martin's Hall, on the 27th ult., the Earl of Shaftesbury presiding. The chairman, in the course of his opening address, alluded to certain rumoured dissensions in the committee, on the subject of Maynooth. As chairman of the Alliance, I thought it my duty to consider the position of affairs, and be guided by judgment formed from experience, as to the most appropriate moment for making the onward progress. On the most mature consideration I could bring to bear upon the matter, I thought the time had not arrived for making a vigorous onward movement, retaining all our feelings as to the disendowment of Maynooth and the repeal of the Act of 1843. I wrote a letter to my colleagues on the committee, stating my belief that the time had not arrived for making a vigorous parliamentary movement. (Hear, hear.) That opinion was overruled by the committee, and I was overruled along with it. There was no hesitation on my part. The moment the committee declared their judgment I gave way, and I think my colleagues will say I have gone on with them since as vigorously and conscientiously as if we had never entertained the slightest difference of opinion—(applause)—a difference, be it remembered, only as to the moment of the movement—not in any degree as to its principle. (Hear, hear.) The report alluded to the efforts of the committees, by means of publications and lectures, to enlighten the public mind in reference to Popery, stated that Mr. Davis was now permanent secretary, and that the services of the Rev. M. H. Vine, rector of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, had also been obtained. The financial statement, which was subsequently read, showed an income for the year of £563. 8s. 10d., and an expenditure of £423. 4s. 3d., leaving a balance in hand of £40. 4s. 7d.

Sir C. EARDLEY said that within the last few weeks, a Roman Catholic priest had made a formal application for admission to Brixton Gaol; that a room should be assigned to him; that he should be allowed to read mass therein; and that all the Roman Catholic prisoners there confined should be required to attend mass within the walls of Her Majesty's prison. (Hear.) On the thing becoming known, the Protestant chaplain of the prison very properly sent in a protest to Sir G. Grey against the concession of such right as was claimed in the memorial and in the priest's application. He (Sir C. Eardley), the circumstances having been represented to him, had an interview with Sir G. Grey, accompanied by Mr. Kinnaird and Mr. Wheatley as a deputation, and reiterated the protest which had been made by the Protestant chaplain of the prison. Sir G. Grey stated that no order had yet been issued upon the subject, the paper not having reached his hands; but he (Sir C. Eardley) regretted to say that he found a strong inclination in the right honourable baronet's mind in favour of concessions to Roman Catholics such as had been demanded. (Symptoms of astonishment.) He had, personally, very great respect for the right honourable baronet; but when his actions were opposed to the conscientious convictions of the great mass of the Protestant community of this country, he hoped they would not be deterred, by the respect they bore to the man, from protesting against the act of the Minister. (Hear, hear.) It appeared, from the conversation he had with the right honourable baronet, that the intention was that the cell-doors of the Roman Catholic prisoners should be thrown open to give the priests access to them whether the prisoners desired it or not, and Sir G. Grey thought, if Protestants attached

importance to Protestant prisoners being visited by the Protestant chaplain, they could not justly deny to the Roman Catholic prisoners the benefit of being visited by the ministers of their religion. The deputation urged upon the right honourable baronet that they thought the limit of religious liberty in such a cause was, that every Roman Catholic confined in the prison should have the right of sending for his priest, if he desired his services; but that it was not part of that liberty to allow the priest to visit the prisoner without being sent for, and when his services were not asked for, or perhaps desired. (Hear, hear.) In the prison in question, it appeared that the great bulk of the Roman Catholic prisoners were, at their own desire, attending the ministrations of the Protestant chaplain; and this movement on the part of the Roman Catholic bishop and the Roman Catholic priest was an endeavour to bring them back within the sphere of his priestly influence. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN said that he had heard a rumour of the circumstance to which Sir Culling had referred, and now he found it confirmed. In answer to the question which Sir Culling had put to him as to the law of the case, there could be no doubt that the concession of such a right as that claimed by the Roman Catholic priest, in reference to Roman Catholic prisoners in Brixton Gaol, would be in contravention of the law of the land. (Hear, hear.) He fully concurred with Sir Culling, that no time should be lost in obtaining from the Government, by deputation or interrogation in both Houses of Parliament, an explanation of what their intentions really were. (Applause.)

The Rev. Dr. CUMMING moved the adoption of the Report, in a lengthened speech, chiefly devoted to the Maynooth endowment.

The Rev. Mr. OWEN seconded, and the Rev. W. CHALMERS spoke in support of, the resolution, which was then put and carried.

T. CHAMBERS, Esq., M.P., proposed the next resolution:

That this meeting cannot but express its sorrow and indignation that another Tuscan subject has been imprisoned for reading the Bible, and that violent efforts have been made to repress religious liberty in Spain; that it at the same time rejoices in the noble stand which Piedmont has taken in resisting the supremacy of the Roman Court, and in the progress of religious liberty in France; and that, both in the persecutions on the one hand, and the resistance on the other, this meeting sees renewed reason and encouragement to persevere in efforts to oppose the encroachment of Popery against ourselves.

Some further resolutions were adopted, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

(For remainder of Anniversary Meetings see Page 368.)

THE SEBASTOPOL INQUIRY.

Mr. Grant, Controller of the Victualling Department of the Admiralty, was examined on Wednesday. Minute inquiries were made of this witness into the methods of transacting business in his department, especially with regard to tenders for contracts, and the mode of ascertaining whether goods supplied are the same as the samples furnished. The Admiralty, he said, has been much more stringent for the last two or three years than it was before; and almost every possible precaution has been taken to insure the contract business being done in a fair and honourable manner. Sir Hew Ross was the second witness on Wednesday. He is Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance, appointed on the 6th May, 1854, to perform the duties of Lord Raglan, the Master-General, during his absence. He had the same powers as the Master-General, except this—he could not set aside the decisions of the Board. The Board manages all the material of war; but neither the Master-General, the Surveyor-General, nor the Clerk of the Ordnance, is an Artillery-officer. He (Sir Hew Ross) is the only Artillery officer on the Board. Some questions were put to this witness with respect to the clothing of the troops; but, being repeated, they were more particularly answered by the next witness, Sir Thomas Hastings, Controller and Storekeeper of the Ordnance. He informed the Committee, that the question of the Ordnance providing the general clothing of the army has been discussed; but it is a mistake to suppose that the system of clothing the army through the Colonels is abolished. On Thursday, Sir Thomas was again examined at great length on the details of his department. The gist of his evidence was to the effect—that great care was taken in making contracts, and in seeing that they were properly and promptly carried out; and that rules and routine were never allowed to stand in the way of the public service. He was strongly of opinion that the official person who, at Balaklava, refused the cargo of boots and shoes, alleged to have been proffered by the captain of the Sea Nymph, committed a great breach of duty. "It is very wrong of officers to be chattering about straws when the great object is to have the supplies." On Friday and Monday Sir Thomas continued his evidence respecting the Board of Ordnance. On the latter day Mr. Monsell, clerk to the Ordnance Department, was also examined. Both these officials were again examined yesterday. From the general drift of the evidence it would appear that there was much evil arising from the clashing authority of these gentlemen and Sir Hew Ross. Mr. Monsell said that there were only three officers at the Ordnance Board in November, and the office was reduced at one time to only one person—himself; and he came up three or four times in the week. It appears that the number of questions already asked is nearly 20,000. The committee adjourned at three o'clock, an hour earlier than usual, until this day, at twelve.

The Minerva, of Plymouth, was totally lost in Mount's Bay on Friday. The crew were saved.

Postscript.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

The House of Lords sat for a quarter of an hour yesterday, and then adjourned.

The Earl of CLARENDON laid on the table papers connected with the negotiations for peace, which were ordered to be printed.

In the Commons, the Speaker took the chair at four o'clock, but there being only nine members present, the House adjourned to this day (Wednesday).

TRIAL OF THE FRENCH REGICIDE.

Giovanni Pianori was tried on Monday, before one of the ordinary tribunals in Paris. The court was very full. The most crowded part was the space behind the bench, where official personages mastered in such numbers that there was scarcely standing room. The indictment set forth the facts of the case, stating that the prisoner took part with the Romans in defence of their city against the French, that under the name of Liverani he had taken refuge in Piedmont, and subsequently appeared in various towns in France. "It does not appear that he had any very certain means of subsistence by his labour. He had an introduction to a master shoemaker in Paris, named Mallet, who agreed to give him work. After a sojourn of some months in Paris, he suddenly started for London, where he says he stayed nearly three months, and got excellent wages." "Suddenly, instead of keeping a place where he was so exceedingly well off, he left London on the 26th March, and returned to Paris. What has he been doing since that period? It may be stated, that in reality Pianori is only nominally a workman, and that it is not from his labour that this man has for a very long time past derived the means of subsistence. His hands do not bear the marks of any hard work, and when he was arrested he had on a pair of polished leather boots, not made by himself, but which he must have bought, notwithstanding their costliness." "But a month ago he left London, that centre of the most audacious agitators—of those men whom rage and defeat have driven to madness, and who have come to such a point that appeal to crime is their only means to serve their ambitious designs, their material appetites, and their lust for power. It is in vain that he attempts to deny it. Facts speak louder than his denial, and accuse him trumpet-tongued."

The trial was nearly devoid of incident. The material facts, as stated in the *acte d'accusation*, were conclusively proved. The prisoner did not attempt to deny them. Although it was quite clear that he conceals the whole truth regarding his motives and his previous life, he gave no trouble to his judges regarding the main facts. He admitted he fired his double-barrelled pistol at the Emperor. He could not be sure whether he fired the second barrel, or whether it went off by itself. But he readily admitted that he had fired once. He denied that when he was seized another pistol was found in his hand. Both the others were, he said, in his pockets. Two witnesses, however, swore positively that he had drawn the pistol, and was about to fire a third shot, when he was captured. The only object of his denial of the fact must have been a vague hope of excluding the idea of premeditation. With regard to his motives, he repeated what he had said before the Judge of Instruction, that the Emperor, by the expedition to Rome, had ruined him and his family. Here he made an animated and rather long statement which, owing to his broken French, it was impossible to understand entirely. In the course of this statement, it appeared from the speech of his counsel, he expressed regret for what he had done, but nothing of this was understood by the audience. Although it can scarcely be doubted that Pianori has accomplices, no clue to them was disclosed at the trial. On this subject the prosecution contradicted itself in a very remarkable way.

M. Benoit Champy, a deputy, who, M. Paillot being indisposed, had been appointed by the President as counsel for the prisoner, then addressed the court, and concluded by saying: Perhaps the Emperor, who protected him from the vengeance of the populace on the theatre of the crime, might yet, in the greatness of his soul, inflict upon the prisoner the punishment of a pardon, and thus condemn him to perpetual remorse and unbound gratitude.

The jury retired for ten minutes, and returned a verdict of guilty. The Court sentenced the prisoner to die the death of a paricide. Pianori retired with the gendarmes without betraying the slightest trepidation. A "paricide" is led to the guillotine, barefooted, in a black veil, and his right hand is cut off previous to his execution. The opinion that the Emperor will commute the sentence to banishment to Cayenne or Nouka-Hiva is very general.

CORN-EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, Wednesday, May 9.
We have not any alteration to note in our trade to-day, needy buyers paying the prices of Monday last.
Arrivals this week.—Wheat, English, 1,010 qrs.; foreign, 8,020 qrs. Barley, English, 480 qrs.; foreign, 700 qrs. Oats, English, 1,440 qrs.; Irish, 150 qrs.; foreign, 7,440 qrs. Flax English, 520 qrs.; Irish —; foreign, 200 sacks, — barrels.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

All communications RELATING TO ADVERTISEMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE PAPER should be addressed to Mr. William Freeman, Publisher, 69, Fleet-street, London, to whom POST-OFFICE ORDERS must be made payable at the General Post-office.

Covers for binding the *Nonconformist*, price 3s. each, and Portfolios for filing the current volume, price 4s. each, may be had at the Publishing-office, or through any bookseller or agent.

The Terms of Subscription are (*payment in advance*), 26s. per annum, 13s. for the half-year, and 6s. 6d. per quarter.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The continued pressure of religious and other intelligence, again compels the omission of a leading article, reviews, and several columns of news.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1855.

SUMMARY.

THERE has been an "epilogue" to the Vienna drama. The reports of after-negotiations subsequent to Lord John Russell's departure, are now, to some extent, explained. It appears that M. Drouyn de Lhuys, who remained behind, arranged with Count Buol a proposition for fresh terms of peace, with a full expectation that it would be acceded to by Russia, limiting her naval force in the Black Sea to the number of ships she possessed before the war commenced. The anxious and pacific French Minister for Foreign Affairs acceded to the proposal as the basis of new negotiations. The telegraph, however, speedily informed him, that neither the French Emperor nor the British Government would consent to any such compromise. The result has been the retirement of M. Drouyn de Lhuys from office, the appointment of Count Walewski for his successor as Foreign Minister, and the nomination of Count de Persigny as Ambassador to London. These changes are believed to indicate a more vigorous prosecution of the war, and an increasing disposition, on the part of the Emperor, to look favourably on the reconstitution of Poland. It is stated that a Polish Legion is to be organised in London and Paris, and that Persigny, who has always been noted for his bold and liberal views, is friendly to Polish independence. On the news of the issue of the negotiations at Vienna, orders were sent to Marseilles to dispatch, with all haste, a new siege train of some 300 pieces to the Crimea—a proof that Louis Napoleon, at least, does not contemplate an immediate abandonment of the siege. Yet the latest news from Vienna—that great centre of political mysteries—is to the effect that "the negotiations are not broken off." Whether this means that Austria is determined to retain the semblance of negotiation as an excuse for her inactivity, or that Prince Gortschakoff has ulterior propositions to produce, now that all others have failed, is yet to be seen.

The news from the Russian capital does not countenance the latter supposition. An authentic-looking statement has been published of dissensions in the Imperial cabinet and family as to the proposed terms of peace. It is asserted that the Emperor Alexander himself was disposed to accede to the proposition for limiting the Russian fleet in the Black Sea, but was strongly opposed by the Grand Duke Constantine, who declared himself the ardent and inexorable partisan of the war at all risks and sacrifices. The dispute is said to have been so angry that the Empress Mother was obliged to interfere. The Grand Duke, however, prevailed, and instructions were sent to Prince Gortschakoff to reject the proposition of the Allies. This story may be nothing more than an ingenious fiction. But the peasant insurrection in the Ukraine, and the sufferings entailed upon the commercial classes and landed proprietors of Russia by the war, are grave realities, which even a despotic Czar cannot disregard.

The confusion of telegraphic announcements from the Crimea makes it difficult to form a coherent narrative of the news that comes to hand. While details reach only to the 24th of April, we have telegraphic fragments as late as Sunday last. The result is, on the whole, favourable. The general bombardment of Sebastopol has not been resumed, but the siege has made progress. The unoccupied space between besiegers and besieged is being gradually diminished by the advance of the former. Some of the most important of the Russian batteries have been silenced and mines have been sprung which have enabled the French to establish themselves within a few yards of the town, though the indefatigable enemy have already constructed new defensive works immediately behind those which were no longer tenable. In front of the English trenches, most of the Russian rifle-pits, the fire of which had proved very galling to the besiegers, have been taken, and either incorporated with

their works or destroyed. Still there is but little prospect of a successful issue of the siege at present. This probability is strengthened by the announcement of approaching operations in the field. It appears that the French reserve at Constantinople, amounting to some 25,000 men, has been ordered to proceed to the Crimea, where it will shortly be joined by the Sardinian contingent of 15,000. With these and other reinforcements, it is thought that the Allies will be in a position to resume the offensive, and attack the Russians at Sebastopol, leaving a sufficient force to carry on the siege of Sebastopol. It is stated that the strength of the reinforcements lately received by the Russians has been grossly exaggerated, that their hardships and losses have been more severe than our own, and that their numbers are inferior to those of the Allies. The *Times* takes hope from the prospects of the campaign, and roundly condemns that increasing party whose disgust with the war and its management leads them to hail almost any proposition for bringing it to a peaceful conclusion.

Our news columns testify to the activity of religious societies during the past week, though the demands upon our space prevent more than a passing reference to them. The Bible Society claims especial attention; not only from the magnitude of its operations, but from the fact that its year's income was, with one exception, greater than has ever yet been the case, and its issues unprecedentedly large. The Church Missionary Society laments a considerable falling off in its funds, but exhibits a greater catholicity of spirit. A still stronger index of increasing liberality is to be found in the speech of the Bishop of Melbourne at the Bible Society anniversary. That enlightened prelate was not ashamed to avow, aye, and to rejoice in, the cordial relations he cultivated with ministers and laymen of other denominations in the capital of Victoria—a circumstance which gives us additional cause for rejoicing in the rejection, last session, of the Colonial Churches Bill, which would have tended to subvert that social equality which every section of the Christian Church in the Colonies now happily recognises. So far as our experience goes, we must confess that the Evangelical clergy at home are less willing to abate their pretensions to superior status than any other party in the Church of England. Perhaps the Evangelical Alliance may be working a change for the better, although the utterance of such language as that employed by the chairman of its late meeting, in reference to the Irish Church Establishment, is somewhat at variance with its catholic constitution. The refusal of the new Bishop of Sierra Leone to accept the designation of "My Lord," is a significant circumstance. It may be, after all, that the worth and earnestness that exist in the State Church will be most influential in emancipating it from secular control.

The City of London meeting was anticipated in Derby and Sheffield, and is to be repeated in Liverpool, Birmingham, and, perhaps, Manchester. It is even to have an analogue in the House of Lords. The Earl of Ellenborough has given notice, for Monday next, of a series of resolutions, the force of which lies in its echo of the London Tavern thunder—"That we most humbly lay before Her Majesty our deliberate opinion, that it is only through the selection of men for public employments, without regard to anything but the public service, that the country can hope to prosecute the war . . . to its only legitimate object." The reception of this notice by Lord Panmure is curiously of a piece with, and yet diverse from, Lord Palmerston's refusal to facilitate the discussion of Mr. Layard's motion. "The honourable gentleman must find a night for himself," was the Premier's urbane reply to an inquiry whether the Government would not make a night for their answer to a motion of no-confidence. The Minister of War, on the other hand, postpones, for Lord Ellenborough's convenience, an intended statement on the consolidation of the civil service with the army—the very scheme on which the Cabinet of Lord Aberdeen was employed in December last. The difference is but seeming. Contemptuous indifference may be expressed by excess as well as by lack of courtesy—and contemptuous indifference is the only emotion which the Government exhibits to a nation chafing with humiliation and grief.

The Sebastopol Committee have opened, on the thirty-first day, upon a new and surprisingly valuable vein of evidence. The latest witnesses—Sir Thomas Hastings, Mr. Monseil, Sir Hew Ross, and Mr. Grant, members of the Ordnance and Admiralty Victualling Departments—reveal a state of things in those offices easily dramatised into a "Comedy of Errors." The Master-General of the Ordnance being in command of the army, his three subordinates prefer to rule by turns rather than jointly, countermand each other's orders, quarrel over their respective *protégés*, and appeal to their respective

patrons. The Admiralty official lets out the long-concealed secret of the raw coffee business, with a candour unworthy of his long experience. The difficulty of roasting and grinding coffee in the camp did suggest itself to the official mind, and reference was made to Mr. Filder, who opined (not without consulting "military officers of experience") that the soldiers would find some way of getting over it? Do they yet flatter themselves that their own ingenuity will be equally successful in surmounting the greater difficulty of impeachment for wholesale homicide?

Louis Napoleon is the father of his country. So say the judges of the would-be assassin, Pianori, who was on Monday tried at the ordinary assize, convicted, and sentenced to the death of "a paricide"—the severance of the right hand from the wrist previous to decapitation. The prisoner's gentlemanly appearance, costly weapons, and easy manner of life, indicate his too probable connexion with a conspiracy—denounced by the Procureur Imperial as having its head-quarters in the "demagogic of London"—and it was attempted to confirm the inference by telegraphic police certificates from Rome, accusing him of previous imprisonments for assassination. His defence—a passionate invective against the destroyer of the Italian Republic, as his personal as well as public enemy, and his imperturbable demeanour—is simply the counterpart of the Emperor's avowal of a providential mission and immunity. His advocate's hope in the wise magnanimity that punishes by "condemning to perpetual remorse and unbounded gratitude,"—will, we hope, be realised; if only from the Emperor's recollection of the prisoner of Ham.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY last brought with it a most agreeable surprise to the few members who advocate a voluntary and self-supporting system of education—all the more agreeable forasmuch as the current of opinion and feeling in the House has been strongly adverse to their position of late. It was known that Mr. Henley meant to oppose the second reading of his friend Sir John Pakington's bill—but it was anticipated that the line he would take would run in the direction of High Church exclusiveness. That expectation, happily, the right honourable member for Oxfordshire did not deem it incumbent on him to realise. On the contrary, with certain qualifications, he took up the ground usually occupied by the Voluntaries; and in a speech of from three to four hours' duration, pursued a line of argument which would have been appropriate in the mouth of the stanchest of them, and would not have misbecome Mr. Edward Baines himself.

Mr. Henley is, in appearance, an elderly gentleman of the old-fashioned school. He would probably be taken by a stranger for a well-to-do farmer, bucolic in his tastes, but not without intelligence. Ordinarily, he speaks in a low, mumbbling tone, and, as he speaks often, so he often fails to secure the attention which his ample information, his ease in communicating it, and his general good sense deserve. But on Wednesday the case was different. His audience, though few, were fit. His position of antagonism to an old and valued friend threw something of solemnity into his manner. The cheers which he received from many on his own side, heartily echoed as they were by those of the Voluntaries, seemed to inspire him. He kept the attention of the House from first to last, and when he resumed his seat received acclamations from all who had listened to him.

Mr. Henley certainly did justice to the voluntary arguments. If he produced little in the shape of novelty—a thing not to be looked for—his speech proved that he had bestowed much and conscientious labour upon his subject, and had thoroughly mastered it. He made havoc of Sir John Pakington's statistics, simply by subjecting them to the light of a much wider and more painstaking induction of facts. Recognising the benevolent and liberal intentions of his honourable friend, he demonstrated by an acute analysis of the bill, that they would only be frustrated by its ill-considered provisions. Pretending to be permissive, it would, he showed, be in many cases compulsory. Insisting on a religious education, its enactments would tend to establish the secular system. Aiming at toleration, it would create a new and intense conflict of denominations, more to be deprecated than that excited by Church-rates. And why this grand and perilous experiment? Will new machinery inspire the people with a more earnest desire for education? Is poverty the only or the chief obstacle to more general enlightenment? We do not do all that we could wish—but, at least, we are rapidly improving. Let us continue in our present course which, on the whole, has answered well the need of the country. We can testify that the right honourable gentleman's argumentative speech has produced considerable impression on the House. Mr. Miles who followed him, unable to accom-

modate his old statistics to the new light in which they had been placed by the right honourable member for Oxfordshire, did but little, notwithstanding his good will, to help Sir John Pakington, for it was plain enough that he was a day after the fair. Two or three other members having briefly addressed the House, amongst whom was Mr. Dillwyn, who made an unpretending and effective maiden speech, the debate was adjourned.

Since Wednesday, although it would be an exaggeration to say that nothing has been done, it is a fact that the business of the House has been very heterogeneous, has awakened but little interest, and has produced nothing in the shape of lively and earnest discussion. The notice paper on Thursday resembled in variety a medley pie—there was a little of everything. National Education, Scotch Poor Law Amendment, Land and Assessed Taxes Divisions, Intestacy (Scotland), six bills for the reform of the practice and procedure of the Irish Court of Chancery, a Dissenters' Marriage Bill, the Income Tax Bill, and a bill to legalise and preserve the restored standard of weights and measures—all of which came under more or less extended consideration, make up a mixed but not very attractive bill of fare.

Serjeant Shee's Tenants' Compensation (Ireland) Bill, read a second time on Friday, by a majority of three to one, and prefaced by a remarkable speech from the Solicitor-General, whose intellectual acuteness, legal knowledge, and lucidity of speech, are all but rendered ridiculous by an affected enunciation, which irresistibly reminds you of a milliner aspiring to gentility, can hardly be described as an unimportant measure, involving, as it does, fundamental principles both of policy and of social economy, and intimately bearing, as it appears to do, on the development of the resources of Ireland. But it is vain to conceal from oneself the fact that the large support it obtained indicated anything rather than intelligent satisfaction with the provisions of the bill. Ministers cannot get on without the votes of Irish members, and Irish members are pledged to their constituencies in favour of the principle of this measure. Hence, it is seemingly supported by the Government, who will either strangle it in committee, starve it by delay, or send it up to the House of Lords to be contemptuously rejected.

Some progress was made on Monday night with the Civil Service Estimates—for, strange as it may seem, the large expenditure occasioned by the war appears to have superseded and silenced all attention to economy in lesser matters. There are well known items which invariably produce bootless conversation. So it has been this year—but the sum total of the Estimates continues to increase. The Newspaper Stamp Repeal Bill came on for third reading at an early part of the evening—but, in the midst of the debate, Lord Palmerston noticed the bodily indisposition of Mr. Speaker, and suggested the passing on to such business as would release him from his attendance, which suggestion Mr. Disraeli enforced. The debate was consequently adjourned, and the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply—but later in the evening a letter having been read from the Speaker expressing regret that he could not resume his post that night, Mr. Fitzroy, chairman of committees, was called to the chair, in conformity with the act introduced a session or two back by Sir R. H. Inglis. It is singular that the Speaker has never before been prevented by illness from taking the chair, and that Sir R. Inglis should have departed to his rest on the very day on which it first became necessary to apply the provisions of his act. The illness of the Speaker continuing, there was, by common consent, "no House" last night.

THE END AND THE MEANS OF THE NEW MOVEMENT.

THE Westminster Club gentlemen who go about pooh-poohing the London Tavern meeting, either affect contempt to cloak alarm, or are sceptical of the best established historical maxims, as well as blind to the most palpable contemporary facts. They must disbelieve the doctrine which a great living philosopher has deduced from experience, and made the basis of prophecy, "There is no smoke without fire," and they must suppose that principles of human nature conspicuously operative at their end of the town, are, like the Scotland-yard police, without jurisdiction on the east of Temple Bar. If it be true that gouty noblemen and septuagenarian dandies do not for nothing submit to the toils of office and the excitement of debate—it must also be true that merchants will not for nothing leave their counting-houses, subscribe their money, and set their clerks a-copying political correspondence. Whether private or public motives be assigned, let them be assigned in common—and it will be plain that only a profound sense of injurious misgovernment can have converted the London heads of houses into confederated agitators.

That it is not an efflux of personal ambition which has broken down the long-established habits of the merchant-principality, is confessed by the charges of opponents. The only speaker at the London Tavern whose name is unknown to us as strictly civic—Mr. Johnstone Neale—quoted Lord Palmerston as having answered, in private conversation, the charge of aristocratical monopoly in place, by saying, that—

He offered office, while he was forming the present Government, to merchants of the City of London, but those merchants told him it would be impossible for them to leave their business, and give up emoluments of £6,000. or £7,000. a year, to join a Government for a short time, at the risk of losing both business and appointment.

The statement probably requires supplementing thus:—The merchants in question also required assurances as to the general conduct of the Government, which Lord Palmerston would not give. It is, however, undeniable that the leaders in this new movement might at any time have entered the House of Commons, and competed with the sons of the nobility for the departmental offices. That they did not do this, if discreditable to their patriotism, is at least a certificate of their freedom from the ambition of political distinction. It must be admitted, then, that they are sincere in the profession made on their behalf by the chairman—the profession of humiliation and alarm at the state of public affairs. And if their sincerity be unquestioned, their good sense can hardly be denied. Men so much accustomed to judge of facts, and so well content to mind their own business—leaving the business of Government to the governing classes—are as little likely to misjudge the conduct of the latter, as to interfere if their own business were not damaged by the disasters of the other.

If these obvious considerations do not suffice to convince the elevated minds represented by the *Post* and the *Globe* of the ominously genuine character of the City movement,—the facts incidentally adduced may serve to impress with its reasonableness. Mr. Gassiot read a correspondence between Mr. Manby, who offered to raise a Spanish legion of five or ten thousand men, and Mr. Roberts, the Duke of Newcastle's Secretary, from which it appeared that the accidental difference of this offer being made in a private or an official letter, might make the mighty difference between its reaching or not reaching the Minister whose Government forced the Foreign Enlistment Bill through a reluctant House of Commons. Mr. Lindsay related that to certain charges against an Admiralty official, Sir J. Graham and Sir C. Wood deemed it a sufficient answer that the official in question was deaf and dumb; as though natural incapacity were a comprehensive qualification for the discharge of public duties. The same eminent shipowner staked his reputation upon the assertion that two of the eight millions voted last year for the transport service, were utterly wasted; and complained that an offer to benefit that service by his voluntary aid in organising its establishment, was received with cordiality, but dropped into forgetfulness. The evidence of Sir Thomas Hastings was quoted, to show that two Government officials had gone into the market and bid against each other. Mr. Bennoch instanced the appointment of a notoriously unsuccessful Chancellor of the Exchequer to the head of the Admiralty—of a promising young Colonial Minister to the War-office—and of Sir W. Molesworth to the *terra incognita* of Woods and Forests, in proof of a dislocation of the joints corresponding to such ludicrously-discordant digital action as the sending of iron bedsteads in one ship and their legs in another—shoes made to wear over cotton socks, and woollen socks so thick as to require much larger shoes. The gentlemen who know no graver offence than an ill-cooked dinner or a soiled glove, may surely admit that these proofs of magnificent unthrift at the public treasury, are enough to provoke men whose fortunes were secured by careful saving and skilful spending.

But, dismissing the sceptics and sneerers of Pall-Mall, to their fancied security from revolt in Cornhill, we must again urge, in the interest of the great public, that the new movement is fatally defective both in its ends and means. It aims to substitute for the incapacity, ignorance, and pedantry that now reign in the Government offices, the ability, experience, and freedom that characterise our great commercial undertakings. It proposes to do this by raising the constituencies against the aristocratic monopoly of administration. Its object was approved by acclamation so soon as it was announced. A great nation, suffering under the tyranny of little men, hails the first note of rebellion—waits anxiously for the second. Thus far, its anxiety is by no means relieved. The speakers at the London Tavern did not hint at the employment of agencies not already in existence. The chairman treated the presence of two hundred and twenty members of the aristocracy in the People's House as simply a reflection upon the wisdom of the constituencies. Mr. Travers had calculated that the unpolled

voters were sufficient to change the character of our representation. Mr. Powles demanded why the Crown should not choose its servants from the body of the nation, and Parliament permit them to sit without election?—a very sensible demand, but a useless one, since the composition of the Commons will always determine the choice of Ministers. Mr. Lindsay promised a central committee of vigilance on governmental jobs, with a branch committee in every constituency. Mr. Tite thought three years not too short a time in which to change the administrative system that cost us twenty thousand lives, and twenty millions of money in one year. The supplemental meeting at the Guildhall seemed alone to comprehend at once the immensity of our danger and the inadequacy of the proposed remedies—for it added to the first resolution a rider, to the effect that an extension of the suffrage is necessary to administrative reform.

We recommend the example of the Guildhall meeting to the townsmen of the numerous places co-operating with the City movement. There is neither philosophic nor practical statesmanship in the limitation of that movement to an indefinite and temporary object. Without the purification of the constituencies (and they can only be purified by enlargement), not only is the permanent improvement of the administrative system impossible, but the production of an immediate effect is very doubtful. Not only is the complete control of the people over the Legislature essential to their control of the Executive—but the surest way to make the aristocracy relax their hold of the Executive is, to bring the people thundering for admission to their own House. Nevertheless, we do not urge the adoption of this policy at the expense of advantages otherwise attainable. Wherever, as in the City, Conservatives and Liberals can be brought to act together only on the basis of the London Tavern resolutions, and a union of parties is essential to present effect upon its representatives, let that basis be accepted. It will widen and deepen ere long. The division on Mr. Layard's motion will probably reveal a state of feeling in the House of Commons that will send the administrative reformers to the Throne, praying for a dissolution—and the experience of a general election will infallibly disgust them with class constituencies and open voting. There will come, early in the history of the movement, a test of its earnestness—the temptation to accept a compromise of its demands or the compulsion to enlarge them. Meanwhile, let it be applauded and encouraged. It has our hearty sympathies, and excites our hopes of far more than it offers. We hail it for itself, and for its unconscious objects. It is a movement—and therefore stronger than the shams against which it is directed. It is the rebellion of a class against misgovernment by cliques. Let the people make it a constitutional revolution.

The Patriot announces the death of the Rev. Mark Wilks of Paris. "From that capital he was wont at certain periods to withdraw for health to Cheltenham; and there, after a total retirement of several years, enforced by increasing infirmities, he died, on the 27th April, in the seventy-second year of his age. Younger son of the late Rev. Matthew Wilks, educated for the ministry at Hackney College, and for many years pastor of the Independent Church in New Broad-street, he took, at an early stage of his career, an active part in the public affairs of the Nonconformist community. The insidious attack on the principles of religious liberty made by Lord Sidmouth, in 1811, which the celebrated Mark Wilks, of Norwich, was, we believe, among the foremost to repel, called forth the youthful enthusiasm of his nephew and namesake, who, in conjunction with his brother, the late Mr. John Wilks, threw himself into the organised opposition to that atrocious bill. To the end of his days, Mr. Mark Wilks cherished that ardent love of freedom which he had imbibed from parent. He and education, though, for the most part, its exercise was confined to a foreign country."

The Graduates of the University of London held their annual meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday evening. Dr. Birkbeck Navins, of Liverpool, in the chair, Mr. Shaen (Hon. Secretary) read the report, which recorded the important fact, that the Bill prepared for placing the Medical Graduates of London on a perfect equality with those of Oxford and Cambridge passed both Houses, with some slight alterations, and received the Royal assent on the 11th of August, 1854. It also expressed regret that the internal reform of the University had not been accomplished, nor apparently advanced; mainly in consequence of Ministerial changes and the general pressure of public affairs. Special mention was made of the services of Professor Foster.—Professor Foster, LL.D., M.A., moved, and Mr. T. S. Osler, LL.B., seconded a resolution:—"That the Graduates will not cease to assert their claims until they have obtained the concession of their rights."—Dr. Carr, LL.D., of Gateshead, moved, and Mr. Fowler, LL.B., seconded, a resolution:—"That the Graduates regret that the senate has thought it right to suspend the only public ceremonial of the University."—Mr. Wills, LL.B., and Mr. T. B. Baines, B.A., moved, and ascended a resolution calling for subscriptions.—All the resolutions were carried unanimously.

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

A *soirée* in connexion with the British organisation was held in Freemasons' Hall on Thursday evening; Major-General Alexander in the chair. The company having taken tea and coffee, as usual, in an adjoining room, the meeting was commenced with devotional exercises.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, made a few remarks upon the circumstances of the time. Amongst other things he said, he was sorry that there was a disposition manifested by some, in resisting the endowment of error, to join with the unbeliever in helping to pull down one branch of Christ's Church. Christians should think seriously of this. Whatever might be their views of the Church and State connexion, he would entreat every Christian to think what a solemn thing it was, that though Christianity never needed the support of any human arm, our nation would be in a very different position if divorced from it.

The Rev. CHARLES JACKSON, travelling secretary of the Alliance, gave an encouraging account of his travels in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

After a few words from the Rev. NEWMAN HALL,

Dr. STEANE announced that meetings for united prayer, in reference to the present circumstances of the country, would be held in the room in which the brethren were assembled, on four successive Friday mornings, at half-past nine o'clock, commencing this week.

The Rev. F. MONOD said it was the first time he had ever attended the meetings of the English branch of the Alliance, and he was much gratified in now being present. If they met often, all their differences would vanish and sink into nothing, in comparison with their love to a common Saviour. He was very much pleased at the meeting Dr. Steane and Mr. Morris in France. They had convinced the French brethren that the change of the time of the meeting to the autumn would be very advantageous. He trusted that, as the change had been made principally on account of the English brethren, they would feel bound to come over in large numbers. What a difference there was in the circumstances of the two countries! One was like a field of corn, with a few tares in it; the other was like a field of tares, with only a few ears of corn. Thirty-three or thirty-four million Roman Catholics to a million or a million and a-half of nominal Protestants! The fact of Christians from all parts of the world assembling there might, under the blessing of God, create a powerful sensation in the minds of the Roman Catholics. M. Monod then gave an account of the annual meeting of the French branch of the Evangelical Alliance, held at Paris on Tuesday week.

After a few words from the Rev. G. FISCH, Mr. ELIJAH SALEIBY (introduced by the Rev. T. R. Brooke) gave an interesting account of his conversion, which he traced indirectly to the labours of the Alliance.

The Rev. MR. REINECKE, of Berlin, expressed his hope that the Alliance would extend itself throughout the world, as it was founded not on doctrines, but on the true principle of union—the Christian life. The German people, he said, would do all they could to promote Christian truth.

TURKISH MISSIONS' AID SOCIETY.

On Wednesday last, a public breakfast, in aid of this society, was held at Freemasons' Tavern. In the absence of Sir E. N. Buxton, the chair was occupied by J. Henderson, Esq. After singing and prayer,

The Rev. CUTHBERT YOUNG, the secretary, made a brief statement respecting the affairs of the society, and mentioned that earnest appeals had lately been made by the American missionaries for a loan of 800*l.* to rebuild the church and schools at Broussa, which were burned down in July last. Good guarantees would be given for the payment of principal and interest. One gentleman in England had offered 100*l.* if seven others would lend the same amount. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Mr. VEITCH, chaplain to Bishop Gobat, said the hand of God was manifestly pointing to the East as a field for missionary work. Up to a late period the spiritual rulers in the East possessed great civil power, and were enabled to persecute with the utmost severity those who were obnoxious to them. This was no longer the case; and Protestantism was now recognised and to a certain extent protected in Turkey. An edict of toleration had been issued, which came into operation just at the time when it was specially needed; and an excellent opportunity was thus afforded to Protestant Christians for prosecuting Evangelical missions. The American missions, which the present society in part assisted, were of the greatest service, and had met with signal success. The Oriental Churches were in a most corrupt state. Their doctrines were very similar to those of the Church of Rome; and where there was any difference between the two, the advantage was rather in favour of the Western Church.

The Rev. Mr. GOLDBERG, missionary of the London Society to the Jews at Constantinople, related several instances occurring under his own observation, showing the existence of a spirit of inquiry among the Greeks and Armenians, and a readiness to receive Gospel truth. He bore testimony to the beneficial results of the labours of the American missionaries.

The Rev. W. ARNOLD, missionary of the Baptist American Missionary Board, at Athens, said, the present society was very important in uniting the Christians of England and America in one common cause. Whatever difficulty might be felt by some Americans in joining the English Evangelical Alliance, the present effort would be fully appreciated by them, and be the means of establish-

ing a real alliance, which, if not visible and tangible, would be none the less real and strong. (Applause.)

The Rev. WAZIER BEG, of Poona, a converted Mohammedan, and a missionary of the Free Church of Scotland, in Western India, referred to the state of Mohammedans in India, and expressed the gratitude which he felt for the labours of the English and American Churches among the nominal Christians and Mohammedans of the East.

After a short address from Mr. R. Trotter, Mr. E. SALEIBY, from Mount Lebanon, made a short speech, in which he expressed his belief that the American missionaries were doing a great work in the East. He knew eleven of them personally, and he was convinced that they were godly men and well qualified for their labours. He urged Christians to support the Eastern Missions.

The Rev. Mr. DUDAS, a Hungarian missionary from Constantinople, described the results of his labours among the Hungarians, many of whom, he said, were anxious to renounce Popery and embrace Protestantism.

Mr. ROGERS, Her Majesty's Consul at Caiffa, in Palestine, bore testimony to the excellent results of the labours of the American missionaries in Syria; and urged the importance of English Christians uniting with the Americans in advancing the cause of the Gospel in the East. He also introduced to the meeting Jacob Esh Salezby, a Samaritan, who is soliciting temporal relief for his nation.

The CHAIRMAN said, that the Mohammedans, having had no opportunity of seeing Protestant Christianity in practical operation, naturally associated Christianity with idolatry, having seen nothing but the worship of the Greek and Roman Churches. Late events had tended to dissipate this error, and remove other prejudices which the Mohammedans had entertained in reference to Christianity. They were now asking for copies of the Scriptures, and assembling round the missionaries to hear the Gospel explained; and a remarkable work was going on amongst them. So also among the Armenians, of which abundant evidence had been given. He (the Chairman) desired to bear his testimony to the sincerity and the high Christian spiritual character of the American missionaries.

THE MILTON CLUB.

On Monday morning a large number of the friends and supporters of this undertaking assembled to inaugurate its temporary opening, for the convenience of the numbers who flock to the metropolis at this season, to participate in the anniversaries of our great religious and benevolent organisations. The friends took breakfast together at ten o'clock. Amongst those present were a large number of the most influential ministers and laymen connected with the different denominations of Evangelical Dissenters; including Sir S. Morton Peto; F. Crossley, Esq., M.P. for Halifax; Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P. for Southwark; E. Ball, Esq., M.P. for Cambridgeshire; James Grant, Esq., Editor of the *Morning Advertiser*; Mr. Alderman Wire; Samuel Morley, Esq.; E. Swaine, Esq.; Thomas Piper, Esq.; H. Spicer, Esq.; Josiah Conder, Esq.; W. Spicer, Esq.; J. Spicer, Esq.; J. M. Hare, Esq.; B. Hanbury, Esq.; H. Bateman, Esq.; J. Bennett, Esq.; Travers Buxton, Esq.; Joshua Field, Esq.; Dr. Foster; W. Rutt, Esq.; C. Read, Esq., and numerous other laymen. Amongst the ministers were Dr. Burder, of Hackney; Dr. Morrison, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Massie, Dr. Steane, of Camberwell; Rev. Thomas Binney, of Weigh House Chapel; Rev. Wm. Brock, of Bloomsbury Chapel; Rev. Mr. Allon, of Union Chapel; Rev. J. Galloway, Rev. J. H. Hinton, M.A.; Rev. J. Gamble, Rev. Clement Dukes; Rev. John Burnett, of Camberwell; Rev. Newman Hall, of Surrey Chapel; Rev. George Smith, Secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales; Rev. S. Bergne, one of the Secretaries of the Bible Society, and the Rev. J. Robinson, one of the Secretaries of the London City Mission. The company having viewed the various portions of the building, which appeared to afford the highest satisfaction,

The proceedings commenced by the Rev. THOMAS BINNEY offering a very solemn, impressive, and exceedingly appropriate dedicatory prayer, supplicating the Divine blessing on the undertaking.

Breakfast having been served, Sir SAMUEL MORTON PETO, who occupied the chair, introduced the business of the day in an appropriate speech, in which he descended upon the advantages afforded by the institution to the great body of Evangelical Nonconformists. He, for one, hoped great things from the operations of such an institution. They must endeavour, as far as possible, to give it some practical aim and object. He did not believe in the mere power of association, without some definite end in view. (Hear, hear.) Such an institution as this was deeply needed by the Nonconformists of this country; for they often wanted some place where they could meet together, and quietly discuss great and important passing topics. They wanted some place where they could meet as friends in a drawing-room, being merely summoned by a note from the secretary, stating what was to be the subject brought before the club. (Hear.) This would lead to a much greater unity of action amongst them. He briefly adverted to various ways in which this friendly intercourse might be of real advantage, such as in comparing opinions on such questions as that of the Maynooth Endowment, on the position of Dissenters in the Colonies, especially in India; and he instanced, as a happy result of this co-operation, the success which, last session, attended the weekly meetings of the Civil and Religious Liberty Committees of M.P.'s and others.

Mr. BATEMAN, one of the principal promoters of the undertaking, then came forward to explain their present position. He said they were to consider the present meeting as an opening of the institution,

for the benefit of country ministers and laymen who might be up in town during the present month; and he trusted they would all use their exertions to induce the country friends to avail themselves as largely as possible of the advantages which the institution afforded. Under the present circumstances, everything would be done to comfort them; there would be no asking for membership, or anything of that kind. In addition to the ordinary requirements of a club, they had one entire floor, with a separate entrance, where they could meet for the initiation of any movement which need not be at once developed before the club. Here any number of persons could dine and tea together entirely to themselves. Then there was an extensive series of very comfortable bed-rooms, sixteen of which were nearly ready. The club was very conveniently situated; and, for the information of country friends, some of whom were rather timid with regard to certain matters, he would state that there was a stone staircase from the basement story right up to the bed-rooms. (Hear, hear.) The club was for the benefit of the great interests of evangelical Nonconformity, and they intended that it should be the most comfortable place of resort in London. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Everything in the way of food and drink would be provided in plentiful simplicity. There was to be none of that grandeur and profusion of ornamentation which characterised the clubs of the West-end idlers—he meant no disrespect—the gentlemen at the West-end, who had nothing in particular to occupy their time. (Hear, and laughter.) They would be simple and comfortable. They had a large piece of the most valuable freehold ground in London, in the rear of the building, taken at a considerable individual risk, but so valuable, that if Nonconformity were to crumble away to-morrow—(laughter)—that ground would retrieve all their misfortunes. On it they were to erect a vast hall for public meetings. This would be distinct from the club, and would have some separate designation. It would have such a platform, and be such a sized place, as there was not in all London. The hall would be open to accommodate about 2,000 people. As to pecuniary matters, it did not pay yet, of course.—(Hear, and a laugh.) They must not expect any interest upon their money till the whole institution was in full operation; and then, instead of the anticipated 4 per cent., he trusted they would get about 10 per cent. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BATEMAN, in the course of his address, adverted to a proposition of some members of the committee, that the frontage of the Club in Ludgate-hill should be let as a shop, and access to the institution obtained by a side entrance. This proposal he thought derogatory to the position of the Club; and from the hearty cheers with which his views were greeted, there could be no doubt that the feelings of the majority of gentlemen present went cordially with him.

The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. S. Morley, the Rev. Newman Hall, Mr. Ball, the Rev. G. Smith, and Mr. Crossley, in short and pointed speeches. A vote of thanks to Mr. Bateman was carried with hearty unanimity, as was a vote of thanks to the chairman. The meeting broke up soon after twelve o'clock.

IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS.—The sixth anniversary meeting of the Society for Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics was held on Friday, at the Hanover-square Rooms; Lord Calthorpe presiding. The attendance was very numerous. The Rev. Mr. Welch read the report, which stated that the committee felt bound to acknowledge the encouragement which the society had received during the past year, under circumstances of no ordinary difficulty. The amount received from all sources was 89,489*l.* 2*s.*, which was an increase over the receipts of the preceding year of 2,306*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* To this sum was to be added 4,227*l.*, the balance in hand at the beginning of the year, which made the total sum to be placed in the hands of the committee for the past year 43,716*l.* The expenditure on account of the objects of the society, during the past year, was 36,463*l.*, which included the expenses incurred by the local committee for missions, amounting to 1,090*l.* The balance remaining in the treasurer's hands, on the 31st of last December, was 3,024*l.* Some of the missions in Ireland had to be suspended, and the number of ordained missionaries of the society was reduced from 59 to 54, and the inferior agents from 487 to 415. By these means the annual expenditure had been reduced by about 4,000*l.*, and measures were in progress to effect a further reduction. The number of lay agents and Scripture-readers was 271, and of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses was 144. The number of persons paid by the society was 399. The report then proceeded to state at length the success that had attended the society's operations, which was of an encouraging character. The Rev. Robert Beckerschmidt moved the adoption of the report, and cymmented at some length on its details. He regarded it as a most encouraging omen that he might affirm, without fear of contradiction, that the Roman Catholic mind in Ireland generally was in a state of inquiry, eager to know what was truth, and predisposed to accept the faithful and uncompromising, but at the same time affectionate, exhibition of the truth of God's Word, in contrast with the errors of Roman Catholicism. The Archbishop of Cashel seconded the motion which was adopted. Resolutions expressive of thankfulness to God for the success of the society, and appealing to the Protestant public for continuous and increasing support, were also agreed to. The Rev. J. C. Miller, Rev. Edward Ellis, the Bishops of Melbourn and Kilmore, the Rev. T. R. Birks, and P. F. O'Malley, Esq., successively addressed the meeting.

NAVAL AND MILITARY BIBLE SOCIETY.—The seventy-fifth anniversary of this society was held on Monday at Willis's Rooms. The chair was taken by the Marquis of Cholmondeley. The report of the

committee stated that during the last twelve months, 11,780 copies of the Scriptures had been supplied to 63 ships of war; 23,237 had been supplied to the British army, including 4,700 to the militia, and 2,000 vol. forwarded to the Indian army. The total number of Bibles and Testaments issued during the year was 47,000, of which 13,000 had been issued from the depository of the society. No less than 18,300 vol. had been issued to persons not connected with the naval and military service; and the grand total issued within the year was 62,385 vol., of which 41,700 were issued to soldiers and sailors. The statement of receipt and expenditure showed that 2,962 vol. had been received in the past year, and 2,924 paid. On the motion of Rear-Admiral Sir Vernon Harcourt, the report was received and adopted. Several other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and advocated the claims of the society.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

- Education (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 4.
against, 37.
for alteration, 19.
- Free Schools Bill, in favour of, 25.
- Intoxicating Liquors, for prohibiting the sale of, on the Lord's day, 47.
- Marriage Law Amendment Bill, against, 20.
- Maynooth College Act, for repeal of, 533.
- Public Houses (Scotland) Act, for extending to Ireland, 4.
- Sale of Beer Act, for repeal of, 8.
- Nuisances Removal Bill, against, 1.
- Public Health Bill, against, 3.
- Schools (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 16.
against, 2.
- Sunday Trading (Metropolis) Bill, against, 2.
for, 52.
- Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 5.
- District Schools Act, for amendment, 1.
- Education Bills, against, 2.
- Friendly Society Bill, for alteration, 1.
- Distillation from Grain, for prohibiting, 3.
- Intoxicating Liquors, for prohibiting the sale of, 4.
- Metropolis Local Management Bill, for alteration, 5.
against, 1.
- Law of Settlement, for amendment, 4.
- Stamp Duties (Drafts on Bankers), against, 7.
- Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill, in favour of, 1.
against, 2.
- for compensation, 4.
- Army in Crimes, for inquiry, 2.
- Ballot, in favour of, 13.
- Tenants' Improvement Compensation (Ireland) Bill, in favour of, 3.
for alteration, 20.
- Affirmatory (Scotland) Bill, against, 1.
- Book of Common Prayer, for revision, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

- Carlisle Canonries Bill.
- Religious Worship Bill.
- Weights and Measures Bill.
- Sewers (House Drainage) Bill.
- Spirits (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill.
- Sunday Trading (Metropolis) Bill.
- Disentertainers' Marriages Bill.
- Cinque Ports Bill.
- Tenant's Improvements Compensation (Ireland) Bill.
- Metropolis Buildings Bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

- Intestacy (Scotland) Bill.
- Customs Duties Bill.
- Parliamentary Representation (Scotland) Act Amendment Bill.
- Registration of Births, &c. (Scotland) Bill.
- Burial Grounds (Scotland) Bill.

BILL READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

- Loan Bill.
- Income Tax Bill.
- Parliamentary Representation (Scotland) Act Amendment Bill.
- Intestacy (Scotland) Bill.

THE DEBATES.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, in moving the second reading of the Education (No. 2.) Bill, made a further statement, with a view to correct misconceptions. In the first place, the bill was intended to supply a great national want, and to remedy a great national evil—to bring a good school within the reach of every door. That object he sought to accomplish by the operation of three principles. First of all, his bill rested upon the principle that they were bound by their duty and their regard for the national character and the national safety to extend and to improve the existing means of education. His second principle was, that in deference to what he considered to be Christian duty, and to what he believed to be the public feeling, that improved and extended education ought to be religious. His third principle was, that in seeking to provide extended and religious education for the population of this country, divided as it is in religious belief, any educational measure should be founded upon principles of the most perfect toleration. By toleration he meant (to borrow a phrase from some petitions just presented to the House) perfect religious liberty, perfect and equal regard to the recognised religious denominations, and perfect liberty of conscience. With regard to the machinery by which he proposed to carry out the bill, it rested upon two principles. The first was, that the great objects contemplated should be mainly effected by means of a public fund, to be constituted by local contributions, together with grants from this House; and secondly, that these funds should be administered by means of local boards popularly elected, acting upon those principles of self-government which this country has so much at heart, and embracing within them the most educated and competent classes of the country; but that those local boards, to guide, to watch over, and to foster education in the districts, should be superintended by a central department, duly representing and responsible to this House; thus carrying out, in fact, a principle closely analogous to that which regulates the relief of the poor.

Mr. HENLEY appeared as the opponent of the bill, and occupied nearly the whole of the morning sitting

in speaking against it: he moved, amid great cheering, especially from his own side of the House, that the bill be read a second time that day six months. In opening his speech, Mr. Henley said he felt that he should not have to reply to any insinuation that he was actuated by party opposition, because the bill was brought in by a "dear and valued friend." He conscientiously believed that the bill would not extend religious education; that it would arrest the vast progress now going on, and run the risk of cutting the throat of a system which has done a vast amount of good:—

The bill would, moreover, be attended with an enormously increased amount of taxation. (Hear, hear.) He thought there was one evil at the root of this question, which was not sufficiently kept in view. He did not think that was education which merely taught a person to read and write, to do some sums in arithmetic, to tell the reigning sovereigns of the world, or the geographical position of various countries. What he regarded as education was a system that would reach the heart; that would teach a person to know and do his duty to God and man, and thereby be enabled to go through life as a good Christian and a good citizen. (Hear, hear.) He believed that, comparing the people of this country, in respect to education and morality, with any other people in the world, short as had been our means, they would be found at least equal, if not superior, to most other nations. He believed there never was a time when they could look with greater satisfaction to the state of our institutions than the present. He did not deny that there was much ignorance and crime that he could wish to see removed; but he believed that, do what we would, there would be always some crime and some ignorance, and he also believed that this bill would not be effectual in removing either crime or ignorance. The first point in which he differed from his right honourable friend was as to the number of children attending schools. By the census it appeared that there were 2,140,000 children attending day schools, and about 2,400,000 attending Sunday schools. Mr. Horace Mann said there ought to be 2,000,000 of children attending school. The real question was, why were not those children attending school? He believed it was not for want of schools. (Hear.) Mr. Mann has omitted one important element in his calculations, and that was owing to the great distance at which many of them lived from school. The next difficulty was the indifference of the parents. How was his right honourable friend to deal with that? It could not be done by compulsory means, and therefore they would still be in the same position. (Hear.) The next point was as to the poverty of the parents, and he believed as to that the bill could afford no remedy, except that it proposed to make the schools free. So far, good. If the bill proposed to make the new schools free, it might do some good; but if the bill proposed to make the existing schools free also, it would stamp pauperism on the whole population of this country. (Hear, hear.) Evidence had been adduced to show that Austria was one of the best educated countries in the world, but he (Mr. Henley) maintained that, although education in Austria was entirely compulsory, the number of children who could be brought to attend schools in that empire was not equal to those attending schools under the voluntary system in this country. (Hear, hear.) He came now to the quality of the education proposed to be given by this bill. His right honourable friend had omitted in his speech all notice whatever of Sunday school teaching, which was a most valuable element in the education of the people, and without which we should be in a much worse state than we were at present. It appeared from a statement published by Mr. Kay, that while in England, in 1846, the number of persons convicted was 60,000; in Austria, with a population of 33,000,000, the number of detected crimes—he begged the House to observe the word—was 29,492. Mr. Kay's work referred to 1837-8, as well as 1846, and the difference between those years was trifling. It appeared, then, that the whole population, excepting Hungary, which was not included, was 23,652,000. The total number receiving education was 2,338,985, which gave a proportion of the population of 1 in 10 and a fraction, while in our own country the number gave 1 in 8 and a fraction. With regard to crime, the number of criminals was 29,492, or as nearly as possible 1 in 800 in the population. As to morality, the number of births was, in the whole Austrian empire, in 1846, 976,496, while the number of illegitimate births was about one in every nine and a fraction. His right honourable friend had also referred to America, as affording a good illustration of the benefits of national education; but he (Mr. Henley) believed the House would not much value any national system of education which did not also include religious education. (Hear, hear.) He knew his right honourable friend condemned the religious system set up in America. ("Hear, hear," from Sir J. Pakington.) His right honourable friend cried "Hear, hear," but he would remind him that the American national schools were originally set up to teach a religious education, but had gradually slipped down to a purely secular system. (Hear.) The right honourable gentleman (Mr. Henley) then referred to the evidence of Mr. E. Baines before the Manchester and Salford Committee. Mr. Baines said: "I would wish to speak with great respect of the American schools as to their secular character; I would wish also to say that there is something exceedingly peculiar in those schools, as they profess to be what they are not; they pretend to be, as they were originally, schools for teaching religion, and yet the teaching of religion is almost altogether banished from them. (Hear, hear.) It is distinctly stated by the Hon. Horace Mann, in his tenth report of the schools of Massachusetts, 'the policy of the State promotes not only secular, but religious instruction; yet in such a way as leaves to every individual the right of private judgment, and the sacred freedom of conscience.' " He (Mr. Henley) considered that this statement of Mr. Baines was entitled to very considerable weight. Indeed, he thought the name of that gentleman was sufficient to secure attention to any opinion he might express upon a subject with which no man was better acquainted. He (Mr. Henley) feared that if the plan submitted to the House by his right honourable friend were adopted, there would be a great risk of its slipping down into a purely secular system. His right honourable friend proposed to promote religious education in such a way as to leave to every person "the right of private judgment and the sacred freedom of conscience;" and they were assured that a system established upon such a

basis in America had degenerated into a purely secular system. He found that the evidence of a gentleman named Tremehene, who was thoroughly acquainted with the educational system adopted in the United States, coincided with that of Mr. Baines. He was not acquainted with the position of Mr. Tremehene, and therefore he was unable to form any estimate of the value of his evidence; but that gentleman stated that he had consulted a great number of clergymen and others, who considered that the system was loosening the hold of definite Christian principles upon the minds of the people. He (Mr. Henley) believed a great increase had taken place in the education of the people of this country; for it appeared by official returns that the number of children receiving education was, in 1818, one in 17, in 1830, it was one in 11, while in 1851, it was one in 8. (Hear, hear.) He believed, then, if this bill was passed, it would, instead of advancing rapidly in the right direction the education of the people, tend to retard and arrest it. He would show the state of our own population. He believed it to be in a state of steady improvement; and that fact forms a large element in the consideration of the question—yes or no, as to the results of the measure before the House. (Hear, hear.) There are no public records, except of these matters in connexion with the moral condition of the population of this country—namely, crime, drunkenness, and bastardy. It appeared by returns that in 1841, when the population amounted to 15,900,000, in that year, in all the towns of England with above 10,000 inhabitants, the whole number of persons charged with drunkenness was 75,268. In 1851, when the population was 17,900,000, or an increase of 13 per cent., the number of cases of drunkenness was 70,000. With regard to cases of larceny and other criminals, the effects were equally favourable. What, however, was the case as regards bastardy! (Laughter.) He was anxious to call the attention of the President of the Poor-law Board to a fact which he believed to be one great cause of the slight diminution in the returns of bastardy; it was the state of the law, which none knew better than he in all its consequences, which compels a man to maintain children that are not his own, if he should marry their mother. He firmly believed, however, that if this compulsion was swept away from the Poor-laws, we should have not only a state of things superior to other countries in respect of illegitimacy, which we have, indeed, at present, but that we would have even a far better and wholesomer state of things, absolutely as well as relatively, in comparison with ourselves. (Hear.) He had gone through these matters for the greater part, but there was one which should not, however, be lost sight of, so far as it concerned the comparison drawn between the state of education in England and that in foreign countries. He meant the remarkable effect produced by the present system of education on the people with regard to self-government and social order. (Hear, hear.) Education in this country, he maintained, had been for some years in a course of safe and progressive improvement; its march was not stopped, but, on the contrary, was gradually overtaking vice and crime; and this measure would arrest its movement and paralyse at once all voluntary efforts. He impressed upon the House the beneficial effects of the existing system—which taught the exercise of self-control, and that "the fear of God was the beginning of wisdom"—upon the political feelings of the people of this country, whose conduct in seasons of national suffering and popular excitement furnished a striking contrast to that of continental nations. Directing his attention to the bill itself, he stated various specific objections to its principles. Although professing to be permissive, it levied, he said, a tax in one sense compulsory. Assuming that a national school system was necessary, he objected to putting a charge on that account upon real property alone. But he objected to a rate of this kind altogether, since it would bring into operation, with aggravation, an evil which Parliament was trying to remedy, namely, the heartburnings attending a Church-rate. He expressed his belief, supporting his conviction by reference to the machinery of the bill, that its scheme would either be wholly inoperative, or unjust and oppressive in its effects, defeating at the same time its avowed object of giving a religious education upon the principle of perfect toleration. He believed, moreover, that rate-supported schools and schools sustained by voluntary contributions could not co-exist; so that the first effect of this bill would be to knock down all existing schools. One of the most obnoxious clauses of the bill, he remarked, was that which exempted persons guilty of breach of trust from the jurisdiction of a court of equity, which seemed a very odd mode of promoting morality. The bill was not framed to secure religious teaching; it wholly ignored the existence of a clergy; it did not follow the parochial divisions; and it made no provision for evening schools. A question in relation to this subject, which he considered well worthy of consideration, was the connexion between the want of school education and crime. Comparing the two counties of Lancaster and Middlesex, in which the per-cent of the educated population was the same, the proportion of crime in Lancaster was one in 586, and in Middlesex one in 913. In other cases the discrepancy was still more startling. In North Wales the educated amounted to nine per cent. of the population, and in South Wales eight per cent. and a decimal. In the former the criminals were one in 1,202 persons, and in the latter one in 903. In Hertfordshire, which was highly educated, the proportion being fourteen per cent. the criminals were one in 620. Mr. Henley closed a speech of much ability which occupied three hours and a half in delivery, and appeared to make a strong impression, by imploring the House to consider the consequences of taking a false step in a matter of such serious moment, and that if a system built upon the solid foundation of religious truth were imprudently abandoned, the error could not be easily repaired.

Mr. ROBERT PHILLIMORE seconded the amendment. Mr. MILES defended the bill from the attacks of Mr. Henley; and hoped the three bills before the House would be referred to a Select Committee. Mr. DILLWYN, a new member, made his *début* in a brief speech, opposing the bill because it would convert parishes into arenas of strife. Mr. BYNG supported the second reading, but intimated dislike of some details.

On the motion of Mr. ADDERLEY, the debate was adjourned till Thursday. On that evening a conversation took place on the subject; and Lord PALMER-

STON said that he feared he could not fix a day for the resumption of the debate until after Whitsuntide.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Earl of CLARENDON gave an explanation similar to that previously made in the House of Lords by Lord Palmerston. On the subject of Austria he said, that at the conclusion of the Conferences, or when they were suspended, "Count Buol expressly stated, that he considered that the means for obtaining a peace were not wholly exhausted; and that it would be the special duty of Austria to endeavour to discover some mode of attaining that end consistently with the engagements into which she had entered with the other Powers." Whether any such proposal could be satisfactory, Lord Clarendon could not venture to say; but "it should receive a patient and unprejudiced consideration from Her Majesty's Government; and the more so, as that consideration is at the same time quite compatible with the vigorous prosecution of military operations." Lord Clarendon explained that "the protocols to be laid upon the table are not simply the record of a conclusion which has been arrived at, but a report of the discussions that took place, and of the feelings that were expressed by the representatives of each power."

The Earl of DEASY, admitting the discreet prudence of reserves, poured forth a repetition of sarcastically-expressed hopes that Austria would prove to have been sincere; a wish to know what her policy really was; a hint that the military operations ought not to be suspended or relaxed; and advice that Ministers should not suffer themselves to be diverted by these protracted and almost illusory negotiations. He heard of new negotiations with regret, and thought the demands of the Allied Powers below what ought to have been pressed upon Russia.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, holding it the bounden duty of Government to secure the co-operation of Austria, if possible, equally held, that up to the last moment they ought not to relax any of their exertions for prosecuting the war with energy.

In the House of Commons, on Friday night, Mr. DISRAELI, by moving the adjournment of the House, took occasion to ask explanations of "the unusual delay which has taken place in laying before the House the State papers relative to the late unsuccessful negotiations." The papers might have been laid on the table on the night Lord John Russell returned, had the Government shown any willingness to place Parliament in possession of information to which it has a right. He had searched the journals for precedents as a guide, and he had found several; but he selected one because it was of modern date, of the highest importance, and apposite to the present conjecture. That precedent was the rupture of the negotiations of 1796. On the 8th October, 1796, the House was informed that Lord Malmesbury had been sent to France to negotiate for peace. On the 20th December, it was known that the negotiations had terminated. On the 29th, Lord Malmesbury returned to England; but two days before, Mr. Secretary Dundas had presented to the House a message from the King stating that the negotiations had been abruptly broken off "by the peremptory refusal of the French Government to treat except on a basis evidently inadmissible," and that the State papers should be laid before Parliament. On the 28th, the whole of the papers connected with the negotiations were laid upon the table. Mr. Disraeli drew an unfavourable comparison between the Government of 1796 and the Government of 1855, and pressed for explanations.

Lord PALMERSTON said, he thought the answer he should give would have been anticipated by all who heard the question. In the case referred to by Mr. Disraeli, the negotiations were carried on "directly" between England and France, and it was clear before they commenced that they were hopeless. In the present case, the negotiations were conducted through the friendly intervention of Austria, who had been incessant before and since the war began in her endeavours to reconcile France and England with Russia. The Conferences at Vienna were a continuation of those efforts. The Conferences were not broken off, but adjourned *sine die*; since Lord John left Vienna, conference was resumed, at the request of Russia; and there still exist at Vienna the elements of a conference. If the Government had determined that they would not listen to any other overtures than Russia might make through Austria, then the course proposed by Mr. Disraeli would be the proper course; but the case cited by him is not parallel to the present; for the French would not accept the basis proposed, whereas Russia did accept the basis.

We have failed in the attempt we have made; but I am not prepared to say there are no other means open, through which, by the intervention of the friendly offices of Austria, a proposition may not be made which it may become the duty of the Government seriously to consider, with a view to a determination whether it is still possible to bring those differences to a close. I should be negligent of my own duty if I held out false hope which cannot be realised. The Government would equally fail in their duty if they stated that all hopes of negotiation have disappeared. I wish to leave the question in the state in which it now is—(ironical cheers from the Opposition)—I wish to leave the door for negotiation open: I wish that door to be open to every possible accommodation, but not by such steps as the right honourable gentleman would drive the Government to. . . . But while, on the one hand, we are determined to continue that contest in a manner consistent with the honour, the dignity, and the interests of the country, so, on the other hand, we will not be parties to shutting the door against any possibility of concluding an honourable and satisfactory peace. (Cheers.)

On Monday, replying to Mr. DISRAELI, Sir G. GREY stated that the papers relating to the Vienna Conferences were still in course of preparation, and would be presented to the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. DISRAELI intimated his intention of inviting an expression of opinion from the House on the subject if a more satisfactory reply were not, on the next evening, returned to the renewed inquiry which he purposed to urge upon the subject. Lord PALMERSTON subsequently promised that the papers should be ready the next day.

On Monday next, according to a further statement of the Prime Minister, Lord Panmure, in the Upper House, intended to explain the arrangements which it was designed to propose for the consolidation of the military departments.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE WAR.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Lord PANMURE, in reply to Lord ELLENBOROUGH, explained the intention of the Government with respect to the recent memorandum relating to the rank of Indian officers. The memorandum goes further in its spirit than in its letter—"namely, to confer upon Indian officers a suitable position and authority, which has hitherto been recognised by courtesy, but with respect to which some doubt previously existed." Although he rejoiced that a mark of favour should be shown to Indian officers, yet he thought their services have been used to put the officers of the Queen's service in the background.

I have seen it stated that the officers in the Queen's service are now classed in two classes—the Peninsulars, who are said to be too old to be effective; and the Know-nothings, who are too young. That is not a fair mode of treating the officers of Her Majesty's army. It has been found necessary to recall some Indian officers holding staff appointments in the Queen's army, because their absence was detrimental to the Indian army. With respect to the "navvies," it has been determined to form a corps of stout working men, to work either in the trenches or in the camp, while the army is engaged in the siege. No definite sum has been fixed upon as the amount of payment to them; but it is utterly impossible to expect that men will come from civil employments, either in the capacity of labourers or of directors, for the usual pay given to persons in Her Majesty's service.

Lord PANMURE, in reply to the Marquis of SALISBURY, explained the circumstances respecting the embarkation of the Guards on board the Alma. On the 20th March, the Admiralty notified to the Minister of War that the Alma would be ready to receive 1,420 men on the 5th April. The Alma took on board 420 troops at Liverpool; but when she reached Portsmouth, the surveyor there, in opposition to the surveyor at Liverpool, reported that she could only carry 1,048 men. The Guards were therefore delayed only as long as was requisite to disembark the detachments brought from Liverpool. It is not correct to say that any of the baggage of the detachment was carried off in the Alma, except as to articles belonging to two officers, who might have obtained them had they taken the least trouble. The orders and counter-orders had arisen from the fact that a storm prevented the Alma from getting into her proper place at Portsmouth. With respect to the arms, the Guards would receive the Minié musket at Constantinople. They carried their smooth-bores to perform the usual drill on the voyage.

In reply to Mr. COLLIER, Sir CHARLES Wood stated that the vessels to be employed in blockading the ports of the White Sea are now ready, have received their orders, and will proceed to their destination as soon as it is practicable from the state of the ice to approach the ports they are to blockade.

To questions from Mr. WHITESIDE and Mr. ROEBUCK, Sir C. Wood answered that the Government reserved a discretion as to the communication of Lord Raglan's despatches to the House and the country. All the details which were of general interest and might expediently be published had regularly been made public as fast as the telegraphic messages were received.

In answer to Lord W. GRAHAM, Lord PALMERSTON said that the loss of the Cressus had rendered the Sardinian troops, which formed the contingent for service in the Crimea, dependent for provisions upon the British commissariat. Everything that they took would, however, be regularly paid for.

In the Commons, on Friday, after Mr. Disraeli's motion, a variety of subjects were talked about. Mr. FRANCIS inquired what had been done in the matter of Lord Dundonald's proposals? Lord PALMERSTON said, that the plan investigated last year had again been forced upon the Government by Lord Dundonald: it is still under consideration; but it presents difficulties of execution, and it is doubtful whether it would answer the purpose intended. Mr. HENRY BAILLIE criticised the management of the Militia; complained that nothing had been done to carry out the Foreign Enlistment Act; and recommended Lord John Russell to supervise Lord Panmure as he had supervised the Duke of Newcastle. Out of this arose much desultory talking. Mr. PEARL stated that upwards of 10,000 men had been sent to the Crimea during the last two months; that depôts for the Foreign Legion will at once be formed at Heligoland and at home; and that several officers, two or three of whom have gone to Germany to enlist men, have been commissioned to raise troops. Mr. ADDERLEY suggested that prisoners under sentence of penal servitude, who had conducted themselves well during eighteen months, should be allowed to enlist for service as military labourers in the Crimea. Sir GEORGE GREY, on the authority of Lord Panmure, said that the army would not accept the services of convicts.

SCOTCH POOR-LAW.

Mr. E. ELICE, on Thursday, moved the second reading of the Poor-law (Scotland) Bill. His object was, not to interfere with the existing law, but to provide better means of enforcing it. Practically, the pauper has no redress under the present system, and he is defrauded of his privileges. To remedy this

evil, Mr. Ellice proposed to appoint inspectors, wholly independent of the Board of Supervision which now treats complaints with contempt, and empowered to make regular visitations and report the result to Parliament. He assailed the conduct of the Board of Supervision and its chairman, Sir J. McNeill, with much warmth, and illustrated his statement by the details of alleged cases of neglect.

The LORD ADVOCATE opposed the bill, as unnecessary, and not calculated to produce the desired effects. He defended the Board of Supervision and Sir John McNeill, and hoped Mr. Ellice would leave the matter in the hands of the Government.

After some further discussion, Mr. ELICE acceded to this request, and withdrew the bill.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

On moving the second reading of the Sunday Trading Metropolis Bill, a great many petitions in favour of the measure having been presented by most of the metropolitan members, Mr. WILKINSON opposed the second reading of the bill, as he considered it was not a fit subject for legislation. As a bill to prevent the desecration of the Sunday he thought the bill was very defective by reason of the numerous exceptions it contained; for there surely was no more desecration in trading before nine o'clock on a Sunday morning than after it. He would not, however, divide the House against the bill, but he hoped it would be sent to a select committee. Lord ENNISKILLIN said the petitions were signed chiefly by the small traders, and it was opposed for the most part by the working-class, who, though they would be the first to refuse working on Sundays, did not scruple to insist on tradesmen keeping their shops open on that day. He admitted there were numerous exceptions to complete cessation of labour on Sunday in the bill, but the great object was to introduce a measure which would practically work. He believed the present bill was of that nature, and he had great pleasure in supporting it.

Sir GEORGE GREY agreed in the propriety of sending the bill to a select committee, and he hoped that this attempt to check Sunday trading would be more successful than previous measures had been. It introduced no new principle, but merely attempted to remedy certain defects in the existing law. Under these circumstances, he thought the discussion need not be protracted. Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE thought this law, if passed at all, ought to apply to the whole country. He would prohibit all Sunday trading on all subjects, and applicable to all parts of the country after eleven o'clock, and he believed that would meet with universal assent. Some discussion ensued, in the course of which strong objections were made to sending the bill to a select committee; it was ultimately read a second time, and was ordered to be committed on Wednesday, the 13th June.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH gave notice that on Monday next he should move certain resolutions respecting the administrative system of the country. These resolutions were afterwards laid on the table of the House by the noble lord, and presented a series of conclusions equivalent to a vote of want of confidence in the Government.

Mr. LAYARD, on Monday, referred to the resolutions respecting the state of the Government and the nation which he had placed on the notice paper, and asked whether any day could be fixed for the discussion.

Lord PALMERSTON—Really, sir, I cannot undertake to find a day for the honourable gentleman; he must find one for himself. (Laughter.)

Mr. LAYARD would bring forward his motion on an early day on going into committee of supply.

NEWSPAPER STAMP BILL.

The motion for the third reading of the Newspaper Stamp Bill, on Monday, gave rise to some discussion, in the course of which Mr. VANSITTART moved that the bill be read a third time that day six months.

Mr. WHITESIDE supported this amendment, commenting upon the refusal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to adopt certain suggestions that had been offered for the improvement of the measure, and especially censuring his surrender of the copyright clauses.

The debate was interrupted by a plea urged by Lord PALMERSTON, on behalf of the Speaker, who was suffering from indisposition. It was therefore agreed to adjourn the discussion until Friday next, and meantime to proceed with business which did not require the presence of the right honourable gentleman.

The House accordingly went into Committee of Supply, and passed a series of votes belonging to the Estimates for Civil Services and Contingencies.

A letter from the Speaker was read by the Clerk at the table, expressing his regret that continued illness prevented him from resuming duty that evening. Lord PALMERSTON then moved that the act passed last session, in anticipation of the contingency which had now occurred for the first time, should be also read by the clerk. This being done, in conformity with the provision of this statute, Mr. Fitzroy, the Chairman of Committees, was moved into the chair as deputy speaker, and the House then resumed.

IRISH LAW REFORM.

On Thursday, in moving the second reading of the first of six bills—the Court of Chancery (Ireland) Jurisdiction Bill—parts of a scheme for reforming the Court of Chancery upon the English model, and including a remedy for the defects of the Encumbered Estates Court, Mr. WHITESIDE elaborately described the abuses of the existing system, from his point of view.

Mr. FITZGERALD severely criticised the provisions of the proposed measures, and called upon the House to reject them, on the ground of inadequacy, and because the Commission, appointed last year to inquire whether it would be advisable to transfer the business

of the Encumbered Estates Court to the Court of Chancery, has not yet reported. He moved that the second reading of the bills be deferred for six months.

A rather warm discussion ensued between the legal friends of Mr. Whiteside, Mr. CAIRNS and Mr. MALINS, and Mr. KEOGH, with respect to the merits of the bills, the merits of each other, and the propriety of anticipating the report of the Commissioners. Ultimately, Mr. HENLEY advised that the debate should be adjourned until the report be presented. The debate was adjourned accordingly till the 31st May.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Tenants' Improvements Compensation (Ireland) Bill was resumed on Friday; and, after a protracted debate, with some of the wrangling incidental to all Irish questions, the second reading was carried by 163 to 50.

On Friday, on the motion of Lord REDESDALE, in the Lords, a resolution was agreed to, that the House would not read any bill a second time after the 24th of July, except bills of supply or of special urgency.

Both Houses of Parliament met on Saturday, at half-past one o'clock, to attend the Royal Commissioners, who had been empowered to give Her Majesty's sanction to a series of bills. This having been done, and the Loan Bill, and some other measures, duly declared laws of the realm, the Lords and Commons were respectively and immediately adjourned.

Mr. KINNAIRD, on Friday, obtained leave to bring in a bill to repeal so much of the Act 55 Geo. III., c. clv., commonly called the Convention Act, as prohibits more than twenty persons assembling in one room for the purpose of religious worship.

THE CITY MEETING ON ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

The meeting convened by a circular bearing the signatures of a great number of eminent merchants, came off on Saturday last at the London Tavern. The admission was by tickets, and the doors were opened an hour before the time for commencing. So immense was the crowd, that beside the 1,500 packed into the large room of the tavern, 800 or 1,000 met in the Guildhall—the use of which was promptly granted by the Lord Mayor—and hundreds more went away disappointed.

On the motion of Mr. J. I. TRAVERS, Mr. Samuel Morley was called to the chair by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN made a speech of which the following are only the points. He admitted that the persons convening the meeting included, to some extent, names strange to the public. They were men, however, deeply moved by the existing state of things—sick of it, and ready to declare that it shall no longer exist. (Tremendous cheering.) If this meeting were merely to result in passing the resolutions announced, tame enough in all conscience, he would not be there. We are drifting to a state of things which can end in nothing but revolution. It was said that this is an attack on the aristocracy. In his opinion, the reputation of the aristocracy ought to be safe in their own hands—(hear, hear)—and it was only as they deceived and plundered the people that they were called to account. The English people are essentially fond of their aristocracy. But a state of things might arise which would involve a greater national loss than even that. He warned the aristocracy not to force the people to inquire how in days past they had been plundered and bamboozled. (Cheers.) There was a class who seem to think they alone are born to govern. The aristocracy have as much right to share in the Government as any class, but only as they exhibit honesty and efficiency. This meeting had no direct connexion with the war. His distinct question was, How are we to be governed when the war is over? There are Christies, and Boxers, and Filders in every department—(cheers)—ignorance, incompetency, and, he was bound to say, superciliousness. (Cheers.) Mr. Lindsay would tell them that, in the transport service alone, there had been a loss of nearer two than one million, which might have been saved had commercial principles been adopted. (Shame.) It was grievous, when the House of Commons spent a whole evening in haggling over a paltry 200,000l. in connexion with the newspaper press. Look to the Commission of Excise, Customs, Taxes, everything; in nineteen cases out of twenty they obtained their place because they were the cousin, or brother, or son of a Member of Parliament, or of somebody that had influence enough to command the appointment. Would it not be grateful to see Rowland Hill made Postmaster-General? Why had no other than a peer occupied this position? There were not fifty men in the House proof against influence. These gentlemen had as good a right to be in the House as any other man; but he doubted very much the wisdom of the constituencies that returned them. (Laughter.) But, as long as men revered gold chains, and purple, and fine linen, we should find that system perpetuated. We should never obtain a real administrative reform so long as a man is obliged to go cap in hand to the voter. Let them, as citizens of London, take care that at the next election there shall be no mistake in the matter. (Loud cheers.) Before he concluded, he said:

I wish to express my amazement and indignation at the flippancy of the Prime Minister of England. (Immense cheering, waving of hats, and clapping of hands, again and again renewed.) Lord Palmerston may be, and unquestionably is a man of consummate ability; he may possess manners that would grace a dancing-master—("hear, hear," and a laugh)—I have no wish to descend to personalities; but I say, that it is utterly atrocious that the deep and earnest feelings of England upon this subject should be met by a perpetual joke. (Hear, hear.) If

you select twenty columns in any newspaper of the speeches he has delivered since he became the Prime Minister of England, under circumstances which have broken the hearts of thousands—(hear, hear)—which have carried desolation into every village in the land—you will find that out of those twenty columns nineteen at least have led to roars of laughter. (Loud cries of "Hear.") Now, I say, that we want something more serious, something more appropriate than this. The crisis is too solemn to admit of any joking of this sort, and therefore I trust that an utterance will go forth from this meeting which will check this tendency to most ill-timed levity, and will ensure for us a more fitting course of conduct for the future. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. J. I. TRAVERS moved the first resolution, which was as follows:—

That the disasters to which the country has been subjected in the conduct of the present war are attributable to the inefficient and practically irresponsible management of the various departments of the State, and urgently demand a thorough change in the administrative system.

Mr. GASSIOTT, in seconding the resolution, read a correspondence between Mr. Manby, of Paris, and the private secretary of the Minister of War, on the subject of a Spanish Legion. Mr. POWLE supported the resolution.

Mr. ALFRED WALKER, as a liveryman, desired to propose a rider, or to speak upon the resolution, but the meeting reluctantly refused to hear him; and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. LINDSAY, M.P., proposed, Mr. S. BAKER seconded, and Mr. F. BENNOCH and Mr. JOHNSON NEALE supported the second resolution, which was also carried unanimously:—

That the true remedy for the system of maladministration which has caused so lamentable a sacrifice of labour, money, and human life, is to be sought in the introduction of enlarged experience and practical ability into the service of the State. That the exclusion from office of those who possess, in a high degree the practical qualities necessary for the direction of affairs in a great commercial country, is a reflection upon its intelligence and a betrayal of its interests. That while we disclaim every desire of excluding the aristocratic classes from participation in the counsels of the Crown, we feel it our duty to protest against the pretensions of any section of the community to monopolise the functions of administration.

In the course of Mr. Lindsay's speech, three cheers were given for Mr. Layard.

Mr. TITE proposed the last resolution, which was as follows:—

That an association be now formed to promote, by constitutional means, the attainment of administrative reform. That the association be called the Administrative Reform Association, and that the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be appointed the committee, to collect funds, to prepare an address to the constituents of the United Kingdom, and generally to carry out the objects of the association: Messrs. F. Bennoch, G. Bishop, Jun., R. Crawford, J. B. Gassiot, J. Hutchinson, W. J. Hall, Macgregor, Laird, S. Laing, W. S. Lindsay, W. McCullagh, S. Morley, R. R. Morse, H. L. Morgan, W. L. Ogilby, J. D. Powles, I. Travers, M. Wilkinson, J. G. Frith, S. Amory, W. Lister, W. Tite, D. Nicoll, J. Collett, S. Baker, B. Smith, Jun., and B. Oliveira, M.P.

Mr. OLIVEIRA, in supporting the resolution, said he had presided in the Guildhall, and the same resolutions as those proposed at the present meeting had been unanimously adopted, with the exception that to the first a rider had been added to the effect, "That, to effect the object of administrative reform, it was necessary to have an enlarged constituency." (Loud cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN observed, that already twenty-five gentlemen had put down their names for 100l. each.

Three cheers for the Queen, for the Independent Members, and for the Emperor of the French, were called for and given with great heartiness before the meeting broke up.

Sheffield has anticipated the London Reformers with an "Administrative Reform Association;" adopting wholesale the resolutions proposed at the London Tavern. Thanks were voted to Mr. Layard for "the noble position he had taken up."

A public meeting is to be held in Norwich tomorrow, with a view to arrangements for co-operating with the London Administrative Reform Association.

An initiatory meeting of the Reformers of Birmingham was held at the Clarendon-rooms, on Saturday, to take into consideration the advisability of petitioning Parliament in aid of Administrative Reform. It is said that the Conservatives of the town are preparing a requisition to the Mayor, praying him to call a public meeting on the same subject.

The St. Pancras Select Vestry have been moved to call a borough (Marylebone) meeting, in co-operation with the City movement, for Monday, the 21st.

The citizens of Derby have taken a large and bold position. At a very crowded meeting in the Town-hall, on Thursday, the Rev. W. Griffiths moved a resolution expressive of strong dissatisfaction with the whole course and conduct of the war, and imputing all the disasters and disgraces of it to the incompetence of those intrusted with high command, and their rejection of vital reforms and disregard of the suggestions of scientific men; and said, that Lord Aberdeen's incapable Government had been succeeded by one still more incapable—by a set of mauldins, at the head of whom was a political "Joe Miller." He denounced Lord Palmerston's joking at a time when the feelings of the nation were in a state of agony, and said that the country would support Mr. Layard, who had struck a heavy blow at the whole system of humbuggy and jobbery. If necessary, 500,000 men would go to the door of the House of Commons, and support Mr. Layard against the attacks of the snarling curs who had endeavoured to yelp him down.

The motion was carried by acclamation. Mr. Bass, M.P., and Mr. Heyworth, then addressed the meeting. Mr. Heyworth denounced the war altogether, saying we were going to war with one tyrant in order to support another. Mr. Bass defended both Lord J. Russell and Lord Palmerston, and complained of the denunciations against the aristocracy made by some of the speakers. A resolution in favour of the restoration of the nationalities of Poland and Hungary,

as the surest protection against Russian aggression was carried by acclamation.

THE WAR.

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

Our intelligence from Sebastopol by the submarine telegraph comes down to May 6. The following were communicated to the daily papers of Saturday and yesterday by Lord Panmure:—

A sharp engagement took place on the night of the 1st May in front and left attack. The whole of the Russian rifle pits were taken, eight light mortars, and 200 prisoners. The whole affair was brilliant for the Allies.

SEBASTOPOL, May 6, 9 P.M.

The enemy assaulted the advanced trench of our right attack last night, but were repulsed promptly. Our loss was three killed and twenty wounded.

The *Daily News* supplies an intermediate despatch, apparently forwarded to them "by submarine telegraph" from the Crimea, and of a later date than the despatch to the Minister of War:—

BEOFRE SEBASTOPOL, Friday morning, May 4.

On the night of Wednesday last, May 2, the French under General Pelissier having taken up a position before the Quarantine bastion, advanced briskly upon the bastion No. 4, attacked the advanced works which the Russians had raised to protect that bastion, and carried them at the point of the bayonet. In this attack the French took twelve mortars from the enemy. The Engineers immediately occupied the ground, and began to carry on a flying sap. At day-break they had succeeded in establishing themselves in the conquered works. Last night (Thursday) the Russians made a general sortie, with the object of retaking the lost ground. After a sanguinary combat, they were driven back into the place. Our losses have been great, but bear no proportion to those of the enemy, nor to the advantages gained. This (Friday) morning the Russians have neither a man nor a gun outside the regular enclosure of the place.

The *Moniteur* states that the Minister of War has received the following telegraphic despatches from General Canrobert:—

BEOFRE SEBASTOPOL, May 2.

We had a successful affair last night. The enemy had strongly connected his works, and with lodgments in front of the Central Bastion was a work of counter-approach, with a double *enceinte* and very solid. We stormed it, and maintained ourselves there under a very heavy fire, and have definitively established ourselves there. We took from the enemy eight small portable mortars which were inside. Exact returns of our loss are not made up, but they are below what I had feared. The enemy suffered considerably. The spirit of the troops was admirable.

BEOFRE SEBASTOPOL, May 3.

Yesterday, at four P.M., the enemy made a sortie to attempt to retake the work of counter-approach which we had taken from him on the preceding night. The troops of the Guard attacked the Russians at the point of the bayonet, routed them, and drove them back into the town. The enemy's artillery protected the departure and the retreat of the sortie by a very violent cannonade, to which our batteries replied well.

A despatch from Lord Raglan was published on Friday evening in a supplement to Tuesday's *Gazette*. It is dated the 21st April, and describes the reconnaissance effected on the 19th; the capture of the rifle pits in front of the approach from the advance of the trenches on the extreme right; and supplies a list of casualties to the 19th. The reconnaissance is thus described:—

Omar Pasha having considered it expedient to make a reconnaissance in front of Balaklava, with a view to ascertain what force the enemy had on the Tchernaya, he proceeded at daylight on the 19th instant, by the extreme right of Sir Colin Campbell's position, towards Kamara, with about twelve battalions of Turkish infantry, having in the plain on his left a body of French cavalry and a battery of horse artillery under General Forey, and two squadrons of heavy cavalry and two squadrons of the Tenth Hussars (the whole of which regiment have, I am happy to say, arrived), and half a troop of horse artillery under Colonel Parly; these detachments of French and English troops having been placed at his Highness's disposal by General Canrobert and myself. The enemy showed only a few Cossacks on this side of the river, who remained on a height overlooking Chagouria till driven from it by a few discharges of rockets by the French artillery; and on the side, behind the village, a small force with four guns only was visible. Omar Pasha did not think it desirable to move across the river, but withdrew after he had satisfied himself that the enemy were not in strength; and the troops returned to their camp, the infantry covered by the cavalry and artillery. The appearance of the Turkish army was very satisfactory. . . . I have omitted to mention in the body of this letter that two squadrons of Turkish cavalry were also in the plain.

Lord Raglan mentions the names of officers who distinguished themselves in the trenches and in the attack on the rifle-pits.

Colonel Egerton was an officer of superior merit, and conducted all his duties, whether in the camp or in the field, in a manner highly to his own honour and greatly to the advantage of the public; and Her Majesty's service could not have sustained a more severe loss; and it is so felt in this army, and in the 77th, where he was much beloved and is deeply lamented. Captain Lempiere was a very young but most promising officer. Captain Owen, whose leg has since been amputated, and Lieutenant Baynes, are both most valuable officers of Engineers; as is Captain King, of the same corps, who was wounded two nights before.

Brigadier-General Lockyer, who was the general officer of the trenches in the right attack, Lieutenant-Col. Mundy, of the 33rd, who succeeded to the command of the troops engaged in the operation on the death of Colonel Egerton, and Captain Gwilt, of the 34th, deserved to be most favourably mentioned; and Lieutenant-Colonel Tylden, the officer of Engineers in charge of the right attack, distinguished himself, as he has done on

many previous occasions, in a remarkable manner. The conduct of the troops was admirable.

In my despatch of the 17th I informed your lordship that a magazine had exploded in one of our batteries; but I omitted to state that Captain Dixon, of the Artillery, availed himself of that opportunity to evince the coolest judgment and most determined gallantry, by instantly opening a gun upon the enemy, notwithstanding the confusion which the bursting of the shell had occasioned, the number of men who had suffered from it, and the great damage the battery had sustained.

The Forty-eighth Regiment and the Royal Engineers had arrived from Corfu.

The casualties from the 16th to the 19th inclusive were 8 officers and 22 men killed; 7 officers and 102 men wounded. The officers killed were Colonel Egerton and Captain Lempriere. The officers wounded were Lieutenant W. Norris, 2d Battalion Rifle-Brigade, severely; Captain F. W. King, Royal Engineers, severely; Lieutenant J. W. Trevor, 6th Regiment of Foot, dangerously; Captain R. D. Gilby, 77th Regiment of Foot, slightly; Lieutenant and Adjutant G. B. Morgan, slightly; Captain H. C. C. Owen, Royal Engineers, dangerously; Lieutenant G. E. S. Baynes, dangerously. In the Naval Brigade, from the 17th to the 20th April inclusive, five men were wounded.

In a further despatch, dated April 24, Lord Raglan says:

The Russian rifle pit, immediately in front of that which was taken on the night of the 19th, was destroyed by a party of volunteers on the morning of the 21st instant. These were headed by Lieutenant and Adjutant Walker, of the 30th Regiment, who is stated to be an excellent officer, and to have conducted himself on the occasion in the most spirited manner. The pit was found to be empty, and being useless was immediately levelled and filled in. The enemy did not interrupt the work.

I enclose the list of casualties, which, I regret to say, is heavy. The nearer we approach the place the more loss is to be apprehended. Hitherto it has been less than might have been expected.

The departure of Omar Pasha from before Sebastopol is confirmed by letters from Kamiesch of the 24th, brought by the Sinai. He has taken with him ten battalions to Eupatoria, reports having arrived that the Russians had massed troops in front of that town, and were preparing an attack. A subsequent account is, to this effect: "Omar Pasha has arrived at Eupatoria, and made a reconnaissance. The Russians refused an engagement: their attack is nevertheless expected."

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The Russian prisoners at Lowestoft seem to be too well treated. They have many indulgences, and earn a good sum of money. But they dislike pumping water. On Thursday they refused to pump, and knocked down one of the wardens. On Friday, they still refused, became violent, and drew their knives. The Governor, Lieutenant Mann, immediately telegraphed to Brighton for the assistance of the Sussex Infantry Militia; three companies of which arrived about half-past eleven by train, and proceeded to the prison with fixed bayonets in double quick time. The ringleaders were speedily captured, and the large clasp-knives, which all the men had for making toys, were taken from them.

The gunboat Dapper, which it was feared had been lost, returned to Sheerness on Saturday very much damaged, having been in great peril.

Immediately upon receipt of news from the Crimea that the fire before Sebastopol was suspended, the French Government sent orders to Marseilles for the embarkation of a new siege train, consisting of nearly 300 heavy guns.

A mechanician named Federer, a Swiss by birth, has just left Lyons for Paris, in order to submit to the examination of competent men a warlike machine of his invention. It has cost him many years' meditation and labour, and will, he says, throw 700 projectiles a minute, and destroy, in a very short time, either a town or a whole squadron.

Admiral Dundas, with thirteen screw ships-of-the-line, five steam frigates, and two steam gunboats, left Kiel harbour on the morning of the 3rd inst. The general impression in the fleet was that they were going at once to Riga, if the state of the ice permitted.

Camps at Hull, Carlisle, and Beverley, are spoken of for 5,000 infantry each.

Lord de Redcliffe and his family are living on board the Caraboc, at Balaklava.

It is said that he went so

as to be able to hold direct communication with Lord John Russell, and Lords Clarendon and Palmerston,

by means of the telegraph.

News was received on Thursday morning that Dr. Gavin, a medical gentleman well known in the metropolis for his scientific attainments, and one of the Medical Commission sent by Government to the East, has been killed at Balaklava by the accidental discharge of a pistol.

He had been at Balaklava about a month, and resided in the same hut as his brother, a veterinary surgeon. On the night of the 20th ult. the brother, it is reported, was playing with his revolver, and by some accident it exploded; the ball struck Dr. Gavin, entering at the groin and lodging in the back. The unfortunate gentleman lingered in great agony for three hours, and expired. His brother is frantic at the catastrophe, and it is feared his reason has given way.

The gunboats Cracker, Clinker, Fancy, and Boxer, left Sheerness for Portsmouth on Sunday, en route for the Black Sea.

Eight thousand Sardinian troops had, up to May 3, left Genoa for Constantinople.

Letters from Trebizond state that 40,000 Circassians, united to a part of the Turkish army, were about to march on Tiflis. Fortifications were being actively constructed at Erzeroum.

The cholera has made its appearance at Galata, Masiak, and even at Pétra.

It is intended to augment the army in the Crimea by two regiments of cavalry of 700 sabres each and

five battalions of infantry, each mustering 1,200 bayonets, making a total of 7,400 cavalry and infantry. In addition to the above the horse brigade, siege and field trains of the Royal Artillery, are to be increased; and the line regiments in the Mediterranean and Ionian Islands will proceed to join the army in the East.

It is understood to be the intention of the British and French Governments to send a strong force of artillery and infantry to assist in the operations about to be resumed against the Russian fortresses in the Gulfs of Finland and Bothnia, and the Baltic. It is stated that the expedition will number 25,000 men, France supplying the greater portion; but, as a set-off, the British Government is to increase the naval forces, and to furnish tonnage for the conveyance of the troops, which will embark sufficiently early to reach the scene of operations before the ice breaks up. The British will embark at Leith, and the French at Brest or Boulogne.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* announces that the Baltic naval division, under the command of Rear-Admiral Penaud, sailed from Cherbourg for its destination on May 1.

The tenor of recent letters from Sweden leads to the belief that the Swedish Government will continue to maintain an armed neutrality. No preparations of any kind have been made that would indicate participation in the war.

A Polish legion is, it is said, to be raised in Paris and London, under the command of the young Prince Czartoryski, with the sanction of the English and French Governments.

Foreign and Colonial.

RUSSIA.

Private letters from St. Petersburg confirm the telegraphic announcement of the insurrection of the peasants in the Ukraine, and state further, that it has already extended to the Governments of Poltawa, Tchernigoff, and Charkoff. The names of twenty landed proprietors whom the maddened moonjiks have destroyed, together with their wives and children, have reached St. Petersburg. M. Poletien, one of the richest proprietors in the Government of Tchernigoff, was burnt alive in his country house at Beloz. The same severe pressure caused by the war which has driven the peasants of Little Russia to insurrection, is stated to be felt at St. Petersburg, where every article of consumption is at famine price.

The Czar has rewarded General Baron Osten-Sacken's merits as defender, first of Odessa and next of Sebastopol, by raising him to the dignity of a Count.

The name of the head engineer at Sebastopol is Todleben. He is thirty-two years of age. His parents are poor shopkeepers in Riga. When the siege commenced, Prince Menschikoff, it is said, asked the then head engineer how long it would take to put the place in a state of defence. He answered, "Two months." A young captain, named Todleben, stepped forward, and said he would undertake to do it, if he had as many men as he required, in two weeks. He did it in twelve days, and was made colonel. Since that time he has had the direction of everything in the way of building batteries, defences, &c. The other day the Grand Dukes called upon his wife, who is residing in St. Petersburg, to congratulate her upon her husband's promotion; for he is now General and Aide-de-camp to the Emperor.

A special commission has been instituted at St. Petersburg by the Emperor Alexander to consider all matters relating to the Eastern question. It is composed of the Grand Duke Constantine, M. Nesselrode, Count Orloff, M. Kisseloff, Count Bludoff, and Prince Dolgorouki. The war party has a majority in the commission.

FRANCE.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys has resigned the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs. The endless evasions of Austria, which it is said Napoleon III. will no longer accept as consistent with professions of alliance, are believed to constitute the real cause of difference between the French Emperor and his Minister. The *Moniteur*, of yesterday, announces that Count Colonna Walewski is appointed the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the place of Drouyn de Lhuys, whose resignation has been accepted, and that Persigny is the Ambassador to London, in the place of Walewski.

Pianori was on Monday found guilty, and condemned to the death of a paricide. We (*Times*) understand that the researches of the French police have for some months past ascertained, that, if any plot exists menacing to the personal safety of Louis Napoleon, it is an Italian conspiracy. It is stated, that by a curious coincidence, if not by prearranged concert, the Pope received, towards the close of last month, an anonymous communication, stating that a blow was about to be struck in Paria, which would be followed by a revolutionary outbreak in Rome and in other parts of Italy, as soon as the success of the attempt was known.

An Imperial decree appoints M. Thouvenel French Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, and M. Benedetti, now at Constantinople, Minister Plenipotentiary to Persia.

It is stated that the motive for the abandonment, or at least the postponement, of the Emperor's visit to the Crimea, is the real or affected apprehensions for the tranquillity of the capital, which were reported to the French Government. The principal persons in the empire showed the utmost disinclination to accept the responsibility of conducting the Government during the absence of Louis Napoleon.

On Saturday the Emperor received a deputation from the English residents at Paris, to present an ad-

dress congratulating him on his escape from the hands of the assassin. It was headed by Lord Denbigh. The Emperor spoke a few words in reply, and expressed, in the most gracious manner, his gratitude for this demonstration towards himself and the Empress on the part of the English in Paris.

The Emperor and the Empress, on Friday evening, were present at the Vaudeville, and were received with great warmth both outside and inside the theatre. On Saturday, the Emperor rode along the Boulevards on horseback, without an escort, and attended only by two servants.

SPAIN.

Mr. Perry, Secretary of the American Legation, has formally announced that his government accepts the arrangement proposed by the Spanish Cabinet in the affair of the Black Warrior. His note on the subject expresses, in the name of the President of the United States, the most friendly sentiments, and the hope that the conclusion of the affair will draw closer the relations between the two countries. The Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs has intimated in the Cortes, that other claims are pending.

The Queen has signed the bill respecting ecclesiastical property with many tears, says the *Constitutionnel*. Her Majesty told her Ministers that she signed because they, her advisers, assured her the bill was for the welfare of Spain, but that she was acting against her conscience. The Ministers endeavoured to comfort her Majesty, by reminding her that she was a constitutional sovereign, and that they alone were responsible. She appeared more cheerful after listening to these observations.

To cover the deficit, an extraordinary impost on the goods of the Church has been resolved on.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The King of Portugal and his brothers have been suffering from measles, in a mild form: the disease is very prevalent at Lisbon.

The only son of Andreas Hoffer, the Tyrolean patriot shot by the French, died recently at Vienna, where he carried on a tobacco business.

The Bishop of Gibraltar has arrived at Balaklava, for the purpose of consecrating the ground in which so many of our brave troops lie interred. He will also consecrate the ground at Constantinople on his return.

There is a scarcity of wheat and other grain in the Western States of America—a very unusual occurrence in those regions.

The Cape copper-mine bubble has burst, after about a million and a quarter sterling had been nominally subscribed in numerous companies, and many of the shares had reached a great premium, though there really seems to be much copper in Namaqualand, and some of the mines will probably prove remunerative.

There is now daily communication by rail between the Pacific and Atlantic; trains on the Panama Railway conveying passengers from ocean to ocean, in three hours, with great regularity.

An inflammatory disease is sweeping off cattle and horses in the Eastern districts of the Cape colony.

At the last advices the Patriotic Fund subscription at the Cape amounted to 3,000*l.*, and it was expected to reach 5,000*l.*

The House of Representatives of the Illinois Legislature has enacted that a fine of 500 dollars be hereafter imposed on any lady who shall lecture in public in any part of the State without first putting on gentleman's apparel!

Mademoiselle Doudet, convicted of cruelty to Dr. Marsden's children, appealed to the Paris Court of Correctional Appeal: that court sustained the judgment of the lower one, but increased the punishment from two to five years' imprisonment. The persevering culprit then appealed to the Court of Cassation.

Mehemet Ali, brother-in-law of the Sultan, has been recalled, against the will of Reshid Pasha. The latter has resigned, and Mehemet Ali, an exile the day before, has been made Grand Vizier in his stead. Fuad Effendi has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Piedmont states that the Austrians evacuated the Duchy of Modena on the 1st.

Dr. Barth, the explorer, was met by Dr. Vogel, on the 1st December last, at Bundi, about 110 geographical miles north-east from Kuka. Dr. Barth afterwards went to Kuka, intending to return to Europe by Murzook and Tripoli.

The *Independance* says, that Queen Marie Amelie thinks of leaving England, to reside in a warmer climate. Palermo or Seville is said to be thought of.

The Washington Cabinet is stated to be entirely harmonious upon the Cuban question. Commodore Macaulay's instructions were not such as to create a *casus belli*. He would resort to force only if a case should arise in which international law would fully justify it. The Administration was strongly in favour of pacific relations with Spain.

The King of Prussia is seriously ill of intermittent fever.

The Directors of the Bank of London have effected a purchase of the extensive and central premises called the Hall of Commerce, in Threadneedle-street, for their head banking-house.

A new steam battery, the Etna, which was to have been launched from Messrs. Scott Russell and Co.'s yard at Millwall on Saturday, was destroyed by fire on Thursday night. After the timber of the vessel had been blazing for some time, the hull launched itself, and the fiery mass plunged into the Thames, to the infinite terror of the spectators who had collected in boats: many leapt into the river, but it does not appear that any lives were lost. The Etna is a mere wreck. Two other vessels in the stocks were damaged.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

On Thursday, the Queen, Prince Albert, and children, and German visitors, paid a private visit to the Royal Academy. In the evening, they went to the Italian Opera. On Friday, they paid a visit to the Crystal Palace; on Saturday, went to the room of the Society of Painter in Water Colours, and in the evening, went again to the Opera. On Monday, a royal visit was paid to the exhibition of paintings by French artists, and in the evening, to the Olympic Theatre. It is understood that Her Majesty will give a second State Ball on Friday, the 1st June next, and a second State Concert on Wednesday, the 20th June.

Cabinet Councils were held on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, at the Foreign-office.

The French Ambassador, in the name of the Emperor Napoleon III., has presented Sir Joseph Paxton with a gold snuff-box, beautifully mounted, and having the Imperial cipher set in brilliants.

The commissioners to be named in the bill for the reform, &c., of the University of Cambridge, are the Earl of Burlington, Lord Monteagle, the Bishop of Chester, Baron Alderson, Mr. Lefevre (of Trinity College), and Professor Sedgwick.

Earl Granville is slowly recovering from his late accident, though still unable to leave his house.

Sir Henry Bishop, the distinguished composer, died of internal cancer. Not only was he suffering from the malady which cost him his life, but his daily maintenance depended almost entirely upon the sympathy and assistance of his immediate friends. The concerts so generously undertaken by Mr. Mitchell, of Bond-street, were devised with a view to relieve him in some measure from the straits in which he was cast by infirmity and poverty, but they were not so productive as could have been wished. Sir Henry was born in the year 1780, consequently he had reached the age of seventy-five when he died. Few men have worked so labouriously, so productively, and so honourably in a graceful and humanising art as Henry Rowley Bishop, and his memory will ever be held in veneration and respect.

The much respected and excellent Sir Robert Harry Inglis died on Saturday at his town residence, Bedford-square. A Tory of the old school, "belonging to Oxford as completely as the Bodleian," a representative of by-gone opinions, and almost the last of his political race, but thoroughly conscientious, consistent, and urbane; in every private relation upright, charitable, and benevolent, a sincere Christian, and every inch a gentleman—he was deservedly respected by all parties, while in private life he was the object of affectionate regard and veneration. It will be long, indeed, before his memory is forgotten, either by his private friends or the members of the Legislature. "We seem to see him," says the *Times*, "now strolling down to Westminster, or sauntering up to his place in the House, with the fresh flower at his button-hole, and with a genial smile and courteous word for every one."

Rear-Admiral A. Lowry Corry died in Paris on Tuesday. Admiral Corry was last year second in command to Sir Charles Napier in the Baltic.

Mr. John E. Boileau is appointed Private Secretary to Lord John Russell at the Colonial-office. Sir John Liddell, M.D., C.B., F.R.S., is appointed Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy.

Sir Roderick I. Murchison, F.R.S., has consented to be nominated successor of the late Sir H. T. De la Beche, as President of the Geological Society.

The Rev. John Macdonald, pastor of the Independent Church at Newton Burgoland, Leicestershire, who died on the 3rd ult., was the last survivor of the missionaries who went out in the ship Duff.

Prince Lucien Bonaparte has sustained serious injury to his leg by falling from some steps in his library, at his residence, Westbourne grove West.

Miscellaneous News.

It is now stated that the new metropolitan cattle-market, in Copenhagen-fields, will be opened before the close of the present month.

The Enterprise, discovery ship, Captain Collison, arrived at Spithead on Saturday night from the Arctic regions, after an unavailing search for Sir John Franklin. Four officers, namely, Captain Phare, Lieutenants Parks and Jago, and Mr. Skeade, the master, are under arrest.

On Saturday night, at a concert-room, at the Spread Eagle Inn, Birmingham, there was an escape of gas, and a cry of "Fire" ensued; the company instantly rushed to the staircase, and in the crush a policeman on duty, a boy, and a girl, were trampled to death. Five others, dreadfully injured, were conveyed to the hospital.

The ship John, from Plymouth, for Quebec, with emigrants, on Thursday night struck on the Manacles Rocks in the Channel, got off into deep water, and shortly went down, 200 feet from the shore. Of 220 persons on board, only about 70 were saved. They were taken from her masts and rigging, and landed at St. Kevern by the Coast Guard.

On Friday morning a most disastrous conflagration broke out in Cottenham, which destroyed twenty houses, whereby twenty-four families were rendered homeless, consisting in all of upwards of a hundred persons. The fire broke out in a large barn. A valuable horse was burned. The loss will extend to between 5,000*l.* and 6,000*l.* A girl is in custody.

The snow was three inches deep in the Isle of Purbeck on Friday morning. On Friday night the frost was very severe throughout the south of England. On Sunday the wind shifted from the north-east to the south-west. Rain fell freely in London on Sunday night, between eleven and twelve. The fall seems to

have extended over a considerable district of the country.

An invention by Mr. Wickens for establishing communication between the driver and the guard of a railway-train has been tried on the South-Western, Windsor, line, with success. It consists of two boxes, connected by tin tubes: by pressing handles on the boxes a whistle is produced, and the sound is carried from the guard to the driver or vice versa; the number of distinct whistles denotes the particular information or warning to be conveyed.

During the performance of *La Sonnambula* at Drury-lane Theatre, on Wednesday evening, some gentlemen in the boxes thought they perceived smoke rising from the proscenium; and they hurried out of the house, raising an alarm of "Fire!" The audience began to retreat, and accidents would no doubt have ensued had not the stage-manager promptly announced that the alarm had no foundation: the people resumed their seats, and the performances went on to a conclusion.

The inauguration dinner of the Royal Academy exhibition season of 1855 attracted, on Saturday, a brilliant assemblage within the walls of the Royal Academy. About 180 gentlemen sat down to dinner in the east room, the chair being taken by the President of the Royal Academy, Sir C. L. Eastlake. Among the speakers were Viscount Hardinge, the Earl of Cardigan, Sir C. Wood, Mr. Buchanan, the Duke of Argyll, Viscount Palmerston, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Campbell, and the Lord Mayor.

The annual meeting of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland was held on Thursday; and was attended by many distinguished men, who expressed their desire for the restoration of Poland. Among them were, the Marquis of Breadalbane, occupying the chair, the Earl of Harrington, the Earl of Zetland, Lord Kinnaird, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Mr. Abel Smith, M.P., M. Pulsky, and Prince Ladislas Czartoryski. The report stated that the expenditure of the year amounted to 1,646*l.*; of which 1,153*l.* had been expended in relief.

Mr. William Henry Barber, the attorney, who has,

often than once, unsuccessfully applied for readmission to the privileges of his profession, and is now a suitor in the Court of Queen's Bench for a new trial,

has obtained an order for a rule to show cause. Lord Chief Justice Campbell observed, that the application was made on the ground that certain new matters had arisen since the Court had pronounced judgment;

they were of opinion that the rule should be granted, on the distinct understanding that the argument should be strictly confined to that new matter.

Another of those surprising escapes on railways of which many have been chronicled, occurred last week. A train from Perth to Edinburgh was going very fast, near Corstorphine, when the door of a first-class carriage flew open, and a little boy, six years old, was pitched out, down an embankment. When the train had been stopped, the agonised father went back on an engine, expecting to find the child maimed or killed: but the little fellow was found at Corstorphine station, whither he had walked, with only a slight scratch!

BIRTHS.

May 1, at Arundel, the wife of the Rev. T. Joseph, of a daughter.

May 1, at Saffron Walden, Essex, the wife of the Rev. W. A. Gillson, of a son.

May 2, Mrs. W. C. Clarke, Brill, Bucks, of a son.

May 5, at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, the wife of the Rev. Henry Lee, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

April 21, in the Congregational Chapel, Wallis-street, South Shields, by the Rev. D. W. Rowe, Mr. JAMES McLEAN KIRBY, to Miss EWART, both of South Shields.

April 26, at Walcot Church, Bath, by the Right Rev. Bishop Carr, the Rev. T. DEALTRY, M.A., son of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Madras, to HARRIETT, daughter of the late J. WING, Esq., of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

April 26, at Odilham, Hants, by the Rev. L. B. Wither, S. G. RATHBONE, Esq., of Liverpool, to ROSAMOND MARIA, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel CUTTERELL.

May 1, at Archdeacon-lane Chapel, Leicester, by the Rev. T. Stevenson, Mr. JOHN TAYLOR, bookseller, Northampton, to SARAH, eldest daughter of Mr. W. SCOTT, Market-place, Leicester.

May 2, at Sion Chapel, Halifax, by the Rev. J. Pridie, Mr. ROBERT KEE, draper and tea-dealer, Milton-place, to SARAH, only daughter of Mr. JOSEPH SUNDELLAN, Upper Brunswick-street, all of Halifax.

May 2, at the Friends' Meeting House, Chelmsford, DAVID CHRISTY, of Patching Ford, Broomfield, to JANE, eldest daughter of HENRY MARRIAGE, of Broomfield.

May 3, at the Great Meeting, Leicester, by the Rev. C. Berry, Mr. THOMAS FIELDING JOHNSON, of this town, to JULIA CHRISTIANA, third daughter of Mr. SAMUEL STONE, Town Clerk of this Borough.

May 3, at the Weigh-house Chapel, by the Rev. T. Binney, CHARLES KING, Esq., surgeon, of 3, Brunswick-place, City-road, to LUCY, youngest daughter of the late JOSHUA BOWES, Esq., of Borthol-lane, City.

May 7, at the Independent Chapel, Brill, Bucks, by the Rev. Isaac Doxsey, of London, Mr. JOHN PEAKINS, Hernmondsey-terrace, Neckinger-road, Surrey, to ANN, elder daughter of Mr. BARRY, Clinton-grounds, near Thame.

DIED.

April 21, at Balaklava, aged thirty-nine, Dr. HECTOR GAVIN, F.R.C.S. Ed., deeply regretted.

April 21, at 24, Savile-street, South Shields, of congestion of the lungs and inflammation of the bronchial tubes, superinduced by the measles, aged twenty-one months, ADELINA, the infant child of the Rev. D. W. ROWE, Congregational Minister.

April 27, at Cheltenham, in his seventy-second year, the Rev. MARK WILKS, formerly of Paris.

April 27, at Everton, JOHN CROPPER, Esq., aged eighty-two.

April 27, GIDEON RIPPON, of Eagle House, Edmonton, and the Bank of England.

April 7, at Ellington, HENRY ENGLISH, Esq., in his fifty-third year, proprietor of the "Mining Journal."

April 30, at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, LOUISA, the wife of GEORGE BURNHAM, Esq.

May 1, at Dignall, Bucks, EZRA, eldest son of Mr. JOHN BATCHELOR, Eggington, Beds, aged twenty-five years.

May 2, at Cockspur-street, Sir GEORGE HEAD, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

April 6, at her residence, London road, Leicester, ELIZABETH, wife of the Rev. GEORGE LEGGE, L.L.D.

May 7, at Huntingdon, ISABELLA BEATRICE, the youngest daughter of Mr. MICHAEL FOSTER, aged five years.

At the residence of her son-in-law, the Rev. H. F. HAHNE, of Wimborne, Dorset, JANE, relict of the late JOSEPH OLIVE, Esq., of Christchurch, Hants. Her end was peace.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

There has been greater buoyancy in the stock market during the past week. Various circumstances have favourably influenced prices, including the successes of the Allies before Sebastopol, the hopes of further negotiations for peace, and the increase of nearly half a million in Bank bullion, further gold arrivals from Australia, and the change in the weather.

On Monday the news of the resignation of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, owing to his views being regarded too Austria and pacific, the failure of a member of the Stock Exchange, who had been a speculative purchaser of 300,000*l.* Consols and Omnim, and whose account had to be closed by sales to that extent, and the extinction of all hope of a compromise at Vienna, led to a decline of about 5*l.* in Consols. The English funds again showed a drooping tendency yesterday, but the decline established did not exceed 4*l.* to 4*l.* per cent., as compared with the final quotations of yesterday. A fuller supply of stock reports pointing to ministerial changes, and the fact that the failure of yesterday has left some of the dealers with more stock on hand than they had calculated upon, seemed to have chiefly occasioned the day's flatness. The Omnim ranged between 4*l.* and 4*l.* 6*p.*, and closed at 4*l.* to 4*l.* 6*p.* On the whole, the market is not without a certain steadiness of character, in the face of several adverse influences in operation at the moment.

The Bank of England, on Thursday, reduced their rate of discount to 4 per cent. This event is regarded with general satisfaction, since it will impart confidence, which is greatly needed; probably 4 per cent. will remain the rate for a long time. The discount houses gave notice on Thursday that their rate of allowance for money at call is reduced to 3 per cent.

In the foreign market transactions are limited. Railway, land, and bank shares are steady.

The arrivals of specie during last week amounted to 500,000*l.*; the shipments to about 400,000*l.* About a quarter of a million was received on Monday from Australia.

The reports from the manufacturing towns for the past week exhibit little alteration in the general state of trade, notwithstanding the reduction of discount by the Bank of England. At Manchester the market is still languid, and there has been no movement in quotations to compensate for the rise in raw material at Liverpool. The Birmingham report describes great quietness and a diminution of employment, the American and colonial orders being still very small. At Nottingham there has been a slight increase in transactions, both in hosiery and lace, but at low prices. In the woollen districts business again shows a little improvement, but in the Irish linen-market there has been a tendency to renewed heaviness.

In the general business of the port of London during the past week there was some improvement. The total of arrivals was 208, being an increase of 78 over those of the previous week. The departures were not so numerous, the total cleared outwards being 131, showing a decrease of 22.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the week have comprised four vessels; two for Port Phillip, with an aggregate burden of 2,004 tons; one for Sydney, 919 tons; and one for Launceston of 495 tons. Their total capacity was 3,418 tons. The rates of freight exhibit a tendency to improvement.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Tues.
Spec Ct. Consols	88 <i>1</i> 4	89	88 <i>1</i> 3	88 <i>1</i> 3	88 <i>1</i> 3	88 <i>1</i> 3
Consols for Ac- count	88 <i>1</i> 2					
3 per Cent. Red.	87 <i>1</i> 2					
New 3 per Cent. Annuities	87 <i>1</i> 3	88 <i>1</i>	88 <i>1</i> 2	88 <i>1</i> 2	88 <i>1</i> 2	88 <i>1</i> 2
India Stock	211 <i>1</i>	211 <i>1</i>	209	209	211	209
Bank Stock	7 pm	7 pm	8 pm	8 pm	10 pm	8 pm
Exchequer-bills	7 pm	7 pm	12 pm	12 pm	17 pm	17 pm
India Bonds	3 <i>1</i>	3 <i>1</i>	18-19	18-19	18-19	18-19
Long Annuities	3 <i>1</i>	3 <i>1</i>	18-19	18-19	18-19	18-19

The Gazette.**BANK OF ENGLAND.**

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the act 7th and 8th Victoria, c. 23, for the week ending on Saturday, the 28th day of April, 1855.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued £28,791,785 Government notes £12,070,130

Other Securities £3,924,000 Gold Coin & Bullion £4,291,785

Silver Bullion £1,101,612

£36,808,396

May 3, 1855. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

BANKING

DIXON, C., Lymington, Hampshire, tailor, May 19, June 15; solicitors, Messrs. Thompson, Gray's-inn-square; and Mr. Brown, Lymington, Hampshire.

HARDING, W., Great Saffron-hill, Holborn, baker, May 18, June 15; solicitor, Mr. Padmore, Beaumont-street, Marylebone.

NEAL, G. E., Pembury, Kent, innkeeper, May 10, June 15; solicitors, Messrs. Church and Langdale, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane; see Mr. Cripps, Tonbridge Wells.

FLATLEY, J., Saxmundham, Suffolk, draper, May 15, June 12; solicitors, Messrs. Pownall and Co., Staple-inn; and Mr. Southwell, Saxmundham.

BAINES, H. J., Wandsworth-road, Surrey, and Stowmarket, Suffolk, brewer, May 15, June 13; solicitors, Messrs. Trinder and Eyes, John-street, Bedford-row; and Mr. Archer, Stowmarket.

LILLYHORSEY, G. F., Bishopsgate street Without, grocer, May 11, June 8; solicitors, Messrs. Howard and Dollman, Fenchurch-street.

HOBSON, S., Great Marylebone-street, stationer, May 14, June 18; solicitor, Mr. Leigh, George-street, Mansion-house.

OPPENHEIM, H., Ramsgate, Kent, ship chandler, May 15, June 18; solicitor, Mr. Buchanan, Guildhall-chambers.

HORN, W., Bishopsgate-street Without, stationer, May 15, June 18; solicitors, Messrs. Liptaker, Sicilian, Bucklersbury.

ROBINSON, H., Brewood, Staffordshire, maltster, May 19, June 8; solicitors, Mr. Turner, Wolverhampton; and Messrs. Mottram and Knight, Birmingham.

BAXTER, H., Kidderminster, licensed victualler, May 16, June 11; solicitors, Messrs. Mottram and Knight, Birmingham.

STEVENS, E., Walsall, Staffordshire, draper, May 19, June 8; solicitors, Mr. Bell, Manchester; and Messrs. Mottram and Knight, Birmingham.

MUNDINES, T., Chadwell-court Mill, Staffordshire, miller, May 9, June 8; solicitors, Mr. Turner, Wolverhampton; and Messrs. Mottram and Knight, Birmingham.

LOWE, S., Derby, silk manufacturer, May 18, June 12; solicitors, Messrs. Crowder and Co., Coleman-street; and Messrs. Freeth and Co., Nottingham.

MORSEAN, R., Bowes, Glamorganshire, grocer, May 16, June 18; solicitors, Messrs. Bevan and Girling, Bristol.

BURTON, J., and REED, R. E., South Hamlet, Gloucester-shire, barge builders, May 15, June 18; solicitor, Mr. Smallridge, Gloucester.

RICKARD, J., Boscastle, Cornwall, draper, May 14, June 21; solicitors, Messrs. Bevan and Girling, Bristol; and Mr. Stogdon, Exeter.

DYER, H. H., Boscastle, Cornwall, grocer, May 14, June 21; solicitors, Messrs. Henderson and Co., Bristol; and Mr. Stogdon, Exeter.

HOSKINS, J., Blackburn, Lancashire, currier, May 17, June 7; solicitor, Mr. Tyre, Liverpool.

BELL, J., Little Bolton, Lancashire, cotton spinner, May 17, June 8; solicitors, Messrs. Rushton and Armitstead, Bolton-le-Moors.

DIVIDENDS

May 28, H. E. Wethered, Charlton-street, Pimlico, linen-draper—May 28, J. Thompson, Jun., Terrace, Kensington, draper—May 28, W. J. Davis, Bristol, music-seller—May 25, T. Beswick, Half Moon-street, Piccadilly, licensed victualler—May 25, T. Hillman, Worthing, Sussex, wine merchant—May 29, C. T. Griffin, Woodford-bridge, Essex, underwriter—May 28, R. Forshaw, Liverpool, machine-maker—May 18, J. Swales, Openshaw, Lancashire, ironmonger—May 25, B. N. Martin, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, joiner—May 25, B. N. Dodd, Hetton-le-Hole, Durham, grocer—May 25, Joseph Wood and James Wood, Allerton, Yorkshire, spinners—May 25, John Wood (separate estate), Allerton, Yorkshire, spinner—May 26, F. Kay, Shirehead, Yorkshire, cut nail manufacturer—May 26, Anne Balles, Sheffield, Yorkshire, licensed victualler.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED

C. Halls and W. H. Smith Bath-street, Camberwell New-road, brewers—A. Botting and E. Botting, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, grooms—W. Cowley and J. P. Cowley, Liverpool, timber merchants—W. S. Hollings and E. Chesterian, Gowhill-road, Clerkenwell, gas fitters—J. Mourlant and M. H. Rowell, Verulam-buildings, Gray's-inn, attorneys—J. Parr and D. O'Mara, Salford, Lancashire, packing case makers—H. Lamb R. J. Lamb, F. Lamb, and W. Stewart, Wakefield, Yorkshire, attorneys, as far as regards W. Stewart—C. Reeks and A. Reeks, Christchurch, Hampshire, millers—W. Walker and W. T. Malleson, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturers—W. Tew and W. Webster, Totil-street, Westminster, boot and shoemakers—S. Morris and T. E. Whittaker, Manchester, auctioneers—J. Cheetham and H. Davy, Tipton, Lancashire, cotton spinners—H. Ardill and J. Pickard, Leeds, Yorkshire, flax and tow machine makers—J. Bentley and G. Pickford, Selby, Yorkshire, flax merchants—J. Stainburn and W. Bangs, South-street, Southwark-square, and Graham-street, City, hatters—E. Evans and A. James, Aberystwith, Cardiganshire, tailors—H. Ormon and J. A. Watson, Ealing, Middlesex, market gardeners—F. A. Cummings and L. Lucas, Liverpool, ship and insurance brokers—J. Sugden and J. Bramham, Leeds, Yorkshire, machine wool comb makers—J. B. Hamilton and T. Leviston, Liverpool, cement merchants—W. Marland and J. Miller, Manchester, silk manufacturers—J. M. Harrison and J. T. Atkinson, Leeds, Yorkshire, wholesale druggists—W. Adams and J. Miles, Paternoster-row, City, wholesale booksellers—M. I. Wilson and C. W. Wilson, Liverpool, merchants—S. Shepherd and T. Chapman, Oakley, Surrey, feltmongers—J. Collins and F. J. Hale, Manchester, stationers—T. C. Campbell and R. H. Witte, Essex-street, Strand, attorneys—A. Beltram and J. Cerrito, Cullum-street, Fenchurch-street, merchants—A. Glendinning, J. Coates, and J. Appleby, Manchester and Sedley, Lancashire, calico printers; as far as regards J. Coates—T. Bidling and J. Campbell, Ormskirk, Lancashire, joiners—A. Dover, Ann Youngusband, Mary Hodgson, Mary Ann Hodgson, J. Dover, and J. Gibson, Crosthwaite, Cumberland, traders—M. Mirfield, W. Mirfield, and H. Mirfield, Holme-lane, near Bradford, and Bradford, Yorkshire, top manufacturers; as far as regards H. Mirfield—T. I. Rayner and R. Rayner, Hirstal, York-shire, surgeons—J. Harrison and T. Brereton, Liverpool, tea and coffee dealers—J. Haigh and J. Fox, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, woollen scribblers—E. Lawrence, W. C. Sillar, and J. T. Lawrence, Liverpool and Bombay, merchants; as far as regards W. C. Sillar—F. Tapell and W. Tapell Baker, Brighton, Sussex, dealers in lace—R. Mann and R. G. Mann, Thetford, Suffolk, and King's Lynn, Norfolk, paper manufacturers—T. North and W. G. Phillips, Oxford, drapers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS

NAUL, D., Linlithgow, merchant, May 18.

PEARL, R. M., Glasgow, steam packet agent, May 14.

WYLLE, J. C., Glasgow, commission merchant, May 14.

CAMPBELL, J., and McINDOE, J., Glasgow, machine makers, May 16.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS

SMITH, S., Stanhope, near Ware, Hertfordshire, miller, dividend of 2s. 1d. on account of first dividend of 5s. 6d., May 7, and any subsequent Monday, at Cannan's, Aldermanbury—White, J. P., Mark-lane, City, merchant, first dividend of 3s., May 10, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Stanfield's, Basinghall-street—Easington, Max., Old Change, City, straw-hat manufacturer, first dividend of 3s. 4d., May 10, and two subsequent Thursdays, at Stanfield's, Basinghall-street—Cattell, P. Long-acre, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, coach maker, first dividend of 2s. 6d., May 10, and two subsequent Thursdays, at Stanfield's, Basinghall-street—Hardwick, P. W., Regent-street, dealer in ribands, final dividend of 1d., May 10, and two subsequent Thursdays, at Stanfield's, Basinghall-street—Harvey, J., sen., and Pike, G. G., Birmingham, grocers, first dividend of 8d., any Friday, at Whitmore's, Birmingham—Jones, W., Liverpool, boat builder, first div. of 7s. 6d., May 7, and any subsequent Monday, at Birds, Liverpool—Sagar, J., Birkenhead, Cheshire, brewer, first div. of 8s., May 9, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Turner's Liverpool—White, R., Thorney Close, Durham and Sunderland, merchant, second and final div. of 1s., May 5, and any subsequent Saturday, at Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Tuesday, May 8, 1855.

BANKRUPTS

PRATT, H. J., New Bond-street, trunk maker, May 22, June 19; solicitors, Messrs. Smith and Sons, Barnard's-inn, Holborn.

PEACE, T., Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, wine and spirit merchant, May 18, June 19; solicitors, Messrs. Jay and Pilgrim, Norwich; and Mr. Jay, Buxtonbury.

STOWDRE, E., Great Bell-alley, City, merchant, May 17, June 21; solicitors, Messrs. Ashurst and Co., Old Jewry.

BROADHEAD, J. W., Green Owlers, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer, May 24, June 22; solicitors, Messrs. Kidd and Jessop, Holmfirth; and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

FORTS, D., Goole, West Riding of Yorkshire, ironmonger, June 4, July 2; solicitors, Mr. Wilson, Goole; and Mr. Maylor, Leeds.

BRADBURY, J., Sheffield, joiner, May 19, June 30; solicitor, Mr. Unwin, Sheffield.

NEWELL, H. F., Bradford, Yorkshire, linendraper, May 18, June 22; solicitors, Messrs. Caris and Gudworth, Leeds.

SQUARRE, T., Walsall, Staffordshire, maltster, May 19, June 15; solicitors, Mr. Jackson, West Bromwich; and Mr. Hodgson, Birkenhead.

HORNBOCKS, J., Salford, Lancashire, grocer, May 18, June 8; solicitor, Mr. Lamb, Manchester.

SOUTHWARD, T., Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, corn merchant, May 22, June 19; solicitor, Mr. Richardson, Bolton-le-Moors.

THOMAS, T., Sunderland, bookbinder, May 23, June 26; solicitor, Mr. Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS

May 31, C. Heaton and J. Heaton, Lime-street, City, and White Lion-street, Spitalfields, export oilmen—May 31, E. Harratt and J. Bland, Huntingdon, and Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire, builders—May 29, J. Haydon, Barnstaple, Devonshire, draper—May 29, H. Savill, Colchester, Essex, grocer—May 29, T. Freck, Nottingham, grocer.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED

G. Mayston and J. Andrews, Great Cambridge-street, Shore-ditch, gas fitters—F. Williams, W. J. Edgecombe, and J. J. Williams, Worcester, grocers; as far as regards J. J. Williams—G. L. Marshall and D. S. Wicksted, Southampton, book-sellers—W. Gibson, W. Gibson, jun., and R. Munkittrick, Manchester, general commission merchants—T. Wilkins and J. S. Wilkins, Leadenhall market, City, wholesale shipping butchers—E. B. Hippisley and W. W. Wheller, Bristol, provision merchants—J. Davison and W. B. Davison, Liverpool, commission agents—W. Chatfield and J. M. Clements, Birmingham, tailors—B. Balfour, A. S. Owen, and R. H. Hazell, St. Mary-axe, City, and Southampton, ship-brokers; as far as regards B. Balfour—F. Carter and G. Osgood, Basinghall-street, City, attorneys—J. Trendell and R. Bracher, Reading, Berkshire, watchmakers—G. H. Ford, and W. West, Hatton-garden, City, lithographers—T. Hawksley and J. T. Start, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, surgeons—G. Salmon and E. Houghton, Keppel-mews North, Russell-square, coach builders—W. F. W. Bird and J. Moore, Gray's-inn-square, attorneys—J. Lord, W. Lord, and J. Robinson, Manchester, manufacturers; as far as regards W. Lord—F. Saward and A. D. Harding, New Inn-yard, Old Bailey, Carmen—J. Brierley, G. Balmer, and J. Nasen, Leicester, spinners—Sophia Fulljames and J. Castree, Gloucester, land agents—Jane Collinson and W. Collinson, Bold-street, Ranelagh-street, and Elliott-street—C. Poppleton, W. Hebdon, and F. Hebdon, Yo-k, linen manufacturers—J. Bennett and R. W. Dewing, Cannon-street, West, City, commission agents—J. S. Leakey and E. Charsley, Lincoln's-inn-fields, attorneys—C. J. Taylor and J. Bentley, Gresham-street, City, fancy warehousemen—D. Cox and R. Leadbeater, Arborfield, Berkshire, carpenters—G. Pell and C. E. Banks, Welford, Northamptonshire, and Northampton, attorneys.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS

LOCKIE, R., Pollokshaws, Renfrewshire, wright, May 16.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS

GRAY, O., Great Tower-street, City, builder, first div. of 2s. 4d., May 10, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Graham's, Coleman-street—Harris, S., Kingston-upon-Thames, ironmonger, first div. of 3s. 10d., May 10, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Graham's, Coleman-street—Thomas, M. A. and W., Upper King-street, Bloomsbury, and Green-street, Theobald's-road, builders, first div. of 3s. 1d., May 10, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Graham's, Coleman-street—Sheppard, H., Salisbury, Wiltshire, grocer, first div. of 2s. 5d., May 10, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Graham's, Coleman-street—Head, J., Exeter, silversmith, first div. of 3s. 1d., any Tuesday or Friday, at Hirtzel's, Exeter—Wylle, R. W., St. Leonard's, Devonshire, flax scutcher, first div. of 2s., any Tuesday or Friday, at Hirtzel's, Exeter—Blamey, F., Gwynep, Cornwall, grocer, further div. of 2s. 7d., any Tuesday or Friday, at Hirtzel's, Exeter—Mercer, J. B., Bath, carpenter, div. of 2s. 4d., May 9, and any subsequent Wednesday, at Miller's, Bristol—Hollason, W., jun., Birmingham, tin plate worker, first div. of 1s. 1d., May 10 and 24, and the two subsequent alternate Thursdays, at Bittleston's, Birmingham.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, May 7.

We had a small supply of English wheat offering this morning, but several arrivals of foreign have come to hand. There was less disposition on the part of millers to buy to-day, and but slow progress was made with the sale of English wheat. At a reduction of 1s to 2s per quarter upon last Monday's prices. In foreign little was done, although holders would have submitted to a similar decline. Flour dull, and rather easier to buy. Barley met with buyers at Friday's prices. Beans and peas without alteration. There was a good supply of foreign and Irish oats, and the weather having become milder, our market was not so brisk as on Friday, but the advance of that day was maintained. Linseed and cakes firm and quite as dear.

BRITISH.

	Wheat	Barley	Foreign
Essex and Kent, Red	70 to 78	Dantzic	82 to 94
Ditto White	76	Konigsberg, Red.	78 to 88
Line, Norfolk, and	—	Pomeranian, Red.	78 to 84
Yorkshire Red	—	Rostock	78 to 84
Scotch	70	Danish and Holstein	74 to 80
Rye	44	Petersburg	68 to 78
Barley malting (new)	32	East Friesland	72 to 78
Malt (pale)	62	Riga and Archangel	62 to 68
Beans, Mazagan	44	Polish Odessa	72 to 73
Ticks	—	Marianopoli	90 to 96
Harrow	—	Taganrog	60 to 68
Pigeon	44	Egyptian	46 to 50
Peas, White	42	American (U.S.)	76 to 80
Flour, town made, per	—	Barley, Pomeranian	31 to 33
Sack of 280 lbs.	65	Konigsberg	—
Linseed, English	75	Danish	31 to 34
Baltic	64	East Friesland	28 to 30
Black Ses.	68	Egyptian	25 to 28
Hempseed	48	Odessa	25 to 28
Canaryseed	40	Beans—Horse	38 to 40
Cloverseed, per cwt. of	52	Pigeon	42 to 44
112 lbs. English	40	Spanish, per sack	36 to 38
German	44	Brown	60 to 62
French	44	Swedish	27 to 28
American	44	Petersburg	26 to 27
Linseed Cakes, 15/- 10s to 16/- 0s	New York	Flour, per bar. of 196lbs.	38 to 44
Rape Cake, 8/- 0s to 8/- 10s per last	Spanish	Spanish, per sack	60 to 61
Rapeasied, 42/- 0s to 44/- 0			

NATIONAL FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY,

14, MOORGATE-STREET, LONDON.

Note is hereby given, that the QUARTERLY MEETING of the MEMBERS of the NATIONAL PERMANENT MUTUAL BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY, commonly called the NATIONAL FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY, will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPSGATE-STREET, in the City of London, on THURSDAY, the 24th instant, at Half-past Six o'clock in the Evening precisely.

W. E. WHITTINGHAM, Secretary.

May 8, 1855.

LOANS, AT 5% PER CENT. PER ANNUM.

From £20 to £1,000.

NEW NATIONAL LIFE, FIRE AND LOAN COMPANY.

434, Oxford-street, Bloomsbury, London.

THOMAS BOURNE, Resident and Managing Secretary.

SOVEREIGN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 49, St. James's-street, London. Established 1848.

TRUSTEES.

The Earl Talbot.

Lord de Mauley.

Sir Claude Scott, Bart.

B. Bond Cabell, Esq.

Henry Pownall, Esq.

This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up Capital; Moderate Premiums for home and foreign risks; no Stamp Duty is charged, and all Policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the Premium paid to some of the participating policies.

Provision can be made for the payment of a certain sum on attaining any given age (as 30, 55, or 60), or at death if it occur previously.

By a small annual payment, 100*l.* may be secured to a child on attaining the age of 14, 18, or 21.

Prospectus and other information will be furnished on application to H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.

THE ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY,

25, CANNON-STREET, LONDON; 11, DUCIE-PLACE (opposite Exchange), MANCHESTER.

CAPITAL, 100,000*l.*, with power to increase to One Million.

DIRECTORS.

EDWARD MIAILL, Esq., M.P., Sydenham-park, Chairman.

Col. LOTHIAN S. DICKSON, 10, Stanhope-terrace, Hyde-park, Deputy Chairman.

ADOLPHUS BAKER, Esq., Counter-street, Borough, and Brixton.

THOMAS HOUGHTON BURRELL, Esq., London bridge.

J. BISHOP CULPEPER, Esq., 26, Gloucester-terrace, Hyde-park.

HENRY FRANCIS HOME, Esq., Randolph House, Brixton-road.

JAMES TOLEMAN, Esq., 170, Goswell-street.

WILLIAM STOUGHTON VARDY, Esq., Red Hill, Surrey.

MANCHESTER LOCAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM JENKINSON, Esq., Back King-street, and Lime-place, Higher Broughton.

WILLIAM MARTIN, Esq. (Mr. Williams and Co.), High-street.

THOMAS ROBERTS, Esq., Market-street, and Chaddes.

ROBERT RUMNEY, Esq. (Hadfield and Rumney), Swan-lane.

JAMES WATTS, Esq. (S. and J. Watts and Co.), Fountain-street, and Chaddes.

JOHN WOOD, Esq. (Wood and Wright), Mosley-street, and Clayton Vale.

WILLIAM WOODWARD, Esq. (Woodward and Son), Greenwood-street, Old Trafford.

CONSULTING ACTUARY.

JENKIN JONES, Esq.

SECRETARY FOR MANCHESTER.

JOHN KINGSLEY, Esq.

The advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an investigation of its Rates of Premium, which are based upon the latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and the terms of its Loan business. It offers to the Assured the security of a large subcribed Capital, combined with all the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office—Eighty per Cent. of the Profits being divided amongst the Policy-holders every five years.

Any other Particulars, or Rates of Premium required for any contingency, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, or at its Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, London.

HUGH BROWN TAPLIN, Secretary.

ECONOMIC LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

6, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS.

Established 1823.

Empowered by Act of Parliament, 3 William IV.

DIRECTORS.

HENRY FREDRICK STEPHENSON, Esq., Chairman.

ROBERT BIDDULPH, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

Alfred Kingsford Barber, Esq.

Sir Alexander Duff Gordon, Bart.

Arthur Keit Barclay, Esq., F.R.S.

Henry Barneit, Esq.

The Right Hon. E. Pleydell-Bouverie, M.P.

Thomas Edgar, Esq.

AUDITORS.

Edward Charrington, Esq.

John Howell, Esq.

Francis Dumergue, Esq.

John Gilliam Stilwell, Esq.

PHYSICIAN—John A. Paris, M.D., Cantab., Hon. D.C.L. Oxon.

F.R.S., President of the Royal College of Physicians.

SURGEON—Benjamin Travers, Esq., F.R.S.

SOLICITOR—Henry Young, Esq.

ACTUARY—Jones John Downes, Esq., F.R.A.S.

SECRETARY—Alex. McDonald, Esq.

MANCHESTER LOCAL BOARD.

DIRECTORS.

HENRY HOULDsworth, Esq., Chairman.

John Bannerman, Esq.

William Shorter Stell, Esq.

Archibald Findlay, Esq.

Robert Stuart, Esq.

George Parr, Esq.

Samuel Watts, Esq.

ACTING DIRECTOR—Joseph Cheshborough Dyer, Esq.

PHYSICIAN—Sir James L. Bardsley, M.D.

SURGEON—J. A. Ransome, Esq.

The advantages offered by this Society are—Economy combined with Security, and Lower Rates of Premiums than those of any other Office, which entitle the Assured to participate in the Profits, and considerably lower than those of any other Mutual Assurance Society.

The WHOLE of the PROFITS are Divided every Fifth Year among the Assured, and a Bonus is added, after the payment of the Fifth Annual Premium, to every Policy effected on the Participating Scale, if a claim accrue thereon prior to the next Division of Profits.

The sum of 397,000*l.* was added to Policies at the last Division, which produced an average Bonus of 67*l.* per Cent. on the Premiums paid.

Number of Policies in force, upwards of 7,000.

The Assurance Fund amounts to 1,402,522*l.* Income, upwards of 230,000*l.* per Annum.

No charge for Policy Stamps, nor for Service in the Yeomanry or Militia Corps.

Prospectuses and full particulars may be obtained on application to ALEXANDER M'DONALD, Secretary.

LIFE ASSURANCE.**UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE and GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.**

1,ADELAIDE-PLACE, LONDON-BRIDGE, LONDON.

Established, 1840, for the Mutual Assurance of Lives, Endowments, Annuities, etc.

ACCUMULATED CAPITAL, £125,000.

Since the commencement of this Institution it has issued Ten Thousand Policies. In the year 1852, it issued 1,177; in the year 1853, 1,318; and in 1854, 1,331.

This is the only Life Assurance Office in which abstainers from Distilled and Fermented Liquors can secure the full benefit of their Temperance.

The Temperance and Public Sections are kept in separate classes, and will each receive their own profits.

Policies are indisputable, except for palpable fraud.

Entire profits belong to the Assured.

Edinburgh Office, 17, George-street; Manchester, 41, John Dalton-street; Liverpool, 49, Castle-street; Glasgow, 106, Hope-street.

Prospectuses, &c., may be obtained at the Branch Offices, or of any of the agents.

N.B.—Members are hereby informed, that the next Annual Meeting will be held on the 21st May, at Two o'Clock, at the Adelaide Hotel, London-bridge.

WILLIAM RICHARD BAKER, Resident Director.

8,987 SHARES ISSUED.

AMOUNT ADVANCED ON MORTGAGE, 94,786*l.* 7s. 4d.**PERPETUAL INVESTMENT, LAND, and BUILDING SOCIETY.**

22, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON.

DIRECTORS.

GOVER, JOHN, Esq., New Kent-road, Chairman.

BURGESS, JOSEPH, Esq., Keen's-row, Walworth.

BURTON, J. R., Esq., Dover-road, and Barnston.

CARTWRIGHT, R., Esq., Chancery-lane.

CUTHBERTSON, F., Esq., Aldersgate-street.

GOVER, W., Esq., Lee-park, Blackheath.

JENNINGS, S., Esq., Gibson-square, Islington.

MILLAR, R. J., Esq., North Brixton.

PRATT, D., Esq., Fleet-street, and Cuckfield.

ARBITRATORS.

PELLATT, A., Esq., M.P., Southwark.

GOULDF, GEORGE, Esq., Longton.

LOW, J., Esq., Gracechurch-street.

MANN, J., Esq., Charterhouse-square.

AUDITORS.

BURGE, GEORGE W., Esq., Hackney.

MIERS, T., Esq., Upper Clapton.

BANKERS.

MESSRS. BARCLAY, BEVAN, TRITTON, and CO.,

59, Lombard-street.

SOLICITORS.

MESSRS. WATSON and SONS, Bowes-street, Fleet-street.

SURVEYORS.

MESSRS. W. and C. PUGH, Blackman-street, Borough.

SECRETARY.—MR. JOHN EDWARD TRESIDDER.

NATURE AND OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Perpetual Investment, Land, and Building Society, was established in May, 1851, under the provisions of the Act of Parliament 6 and 7 William IV., c. xxxii.

The objects of the Society are, to enable the Public—

1. To INVEST THEIR SAVINGS Securely and Profitably.

2. To BORROW MONEY.—

For the Purchase of Land, Dwelling-houses, Trade Premises, and Ground-rents.

For the Improvement of Dwelling-houses, or other Buildings, by Repairs, Alterations, or Enlargements; or for

The Erection of Dwelling-houses, Trade Premises, and Public Buildings.

3. To OBTAIN ALLOTMENTS OF FREEHOLD LAND.

INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT.

INVESTORS are those who use the Society as investment for their savings; on which they will, on the completion of their shares, receive interest at the rate of 5 per cent., together with a proportion of the Society's profits.

An Investor may at any time withdraw the money which he has paid on his share, with interest thereon; the interest now receivable upon withdrawal is 5 per cent. componend, or a Person may dispose of his share with the accumulations of interest and profit, a fee of 1*s.* per share being paid on the transfer. Should sickness, want of employment, or other pecuniary emergency arise, an Investor can, upon the security of his shares, borrow a sum not exceeding the amount paid by him to the Society, interest being charged, at the rate of 7*d.* per month for 2*s.* which includes all expenses.

SHARES.—There are five descriptions of shares, namely:—£10 shares; £25 shares; £30 shares; £50 shares; and £100 shares.

A 10*l.* share may be paid by instalments in the same manner as deposits in Savings' Banks; the entrance fee is 6*d.* each share.

A 25*l.* share requires the payment of 5*s.* per month for 7*½* years, together with an entrance fee of 1*s.*

A 30*l.* share requires the payment of 4*s.* per month for 10 years, together with an entrance fee of 1*s.*

A 50*l.* share requires the payment of 5*s.* per month for 12*½* years, or of 10*s.* per month for 7*½*, together with an entrance fee of 1*s.*

A 100*l.* share requires the payment of 10*s.* per month for 12*½* years, or of 1*s.* per month for 7*½*, together with an entrance fee of 2*s.* 6*d.*

The payments on the shares may be made quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly, in advance, as well as monthly; or any number of payments may be made at once in one sum, a discount at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum being allowed upon all prepayments of six months or more. Table I. at page 4 of the Prospectus shows the amount to be

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE LIBERATION
OF RELIGION FROM STATE PATRONAGE AND CONTROL.
VOLUNTARYISM in ENGLAND and
WALES: or, the Census of 1851.

"It ought to be in the hands of every Nonconformist elector who wishes to gauge the precise strength of voluntaryism as a political power in the country."—Eclectic Review.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL CENSUS of 1851, and its RESULTS. 4 pp., 2s. per 100.

FACTS ESTABLISHED by the CENSUS. 2 pp., 1s. per 100.

THE NEW CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER on CHURCH ESTABLISHMENTS. 2s. per 100.

THE VESTRYMAN'S GUIDE: A Treatise on the Rights and Duties of Parish Vestries in Ecclesiastical Matters. By ALFRED WILLS, Esq., Barrister-at-law. Price 4s. 6d.

BURIAL GROUNDS and **BURIAL BOARDS**: the Provisions of the New Statutes, as they affect Dissenters, with Hints for their Guidance. Price 3d.; by post, 4d.

ECCLESIASTICAL INCIDENTS and **DIVISION** LISTS of the SESSION of 1854. Price 3d.; by post, 5d.

OUR STATE-CHURCH in ENGLAND, WALES, IRELAND, and SCOTLAND: containing particular relative to Church Revenues. Price 1s.; each part may be had separately.

HINTON'S CHURCH PROPERTY—WHOSE IS IT? 2d.

WARDLAW on VOLUNTARYISM. 2d.

MIALL'S PRACTICAL EVILS RESULTING from the UNION of CHURCH and STATE. 2d.

MIALL'S WHAT is SEPARATION of CHURCH and STATE. 2d.

TILLETT'S THE CHURCH in FETTERS. 2d.

BREWIN GRANT'S CHURCH of CHRIST—WHAT IS IT? 1d.

PRYCE'S STATE-CHURCHES NOT CHURCHES of CHRIST. 2d.

MIALL'S RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS INCOMPATIBLE with the RIGHTS of CITIZENSHIP. 2d.

D'AUBIGNE on SEPARATION of CHURCH and STATE. 3d.

MORRIS'S ANTI-STATE CHURCH CATECHISM. 2d.

GODKIN'S CHURCH PRINCIPLES of the NEW TESTAMENT. 2d.

ERASTUS; or, How the Church was Made. 2d.

MORRIS'S RELIGIOUS BEARINGS of the STATE-CHURCH QUESTION. 2d.

BURNETT'S ENDOWMENT of ALL SECTS. 1d.

YOUNG'S LAW of CHRIST for MAINTAINING and EXTENDING HIS CHURCH. 3d.

THE TRUSTEESHIP of the STATE-CHURCH; or, Inquiry into the Management of the Episcopal and Capitular Estates. 2d.

JOHN MILTON on REMOVING HIRELINGS OUT of the CHURCH. Cloth, 10d.; paper, 6d.

TWELVE ESSAYS on the UNION of CHURCH and STATE. By various Authors. Cloth, 1s.; paper, 1s.

SIX ESSAYS. By COX, WARDLAW, MASSIE, MIALL, and MUSSELL. Cloth, 1s.; paper, 6d.

JOHN LOCKE'S ESSAY on TOLERATION. Cloth, 10d.; paper, 6d.

THE TEST of EXPERIENCE; or, the Voluntary Principle in America. Cloth, 1s. 6d.; paper, 1s.

A MODEL LAW: an Act for Establishing Religious Freedom, passed by the Assembly of Virginia (U.S.) 1786. Ornamentally printed, and mounted on rollers and varnished, 9d.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH NOTE PAPER. Each sheet contains a pithy Tract on the last page, handsomely printed.

BILLS AND TRACTS FOR CHURCH-RATE CONTESTS.

A specimen copy of each for six stamps.

Tracts for Distribution, and Placards and Hand-bills for Windows and Street Posting.—Samples sent.

Catalogues forwarded. One pound weight of publications can be posted for 6d. May be ordered through a bookseller, or address "The Secretary," 2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street.

NOVELLO'S EDITION of MARX'S GENERAL MUSICAL INSTRUCTION. Whole cloth, 6s. 6d., post free, 7s.—CERUBINI'S TREATISE on COUNTER-POINT and FUGUE. Whole cloth, 6s. 6d.; post free, 7s.—MOZART'S SUCCINCT THOROUGH-BASS SCHOOL. Paper cover, 10d.—FETIS' TREATISE on CHOIR and CHORUS SINGING. Paper cover, 1s. 6d.; CATEL'S TREATISE on HARMONY. Paper cover, 2s. 6d.; being the first six works in the Series of "Novello's Library for the Diffusion of Musical Knowledge."

J. Alfred Novello, London and New York.

NOVELLO'S SCHOOL ROUND-BOOK. 50 rounds. Sets I. and II., 1s. each; or two bound in one. 2s. 6d.

NOVELLO'S ANALYSIS of VOCAL RUDIMENTS. Price 6d.

HAWKINS'S HISTORY of MUSIC. Two Vols. 3s.; Portraits 1s.

NOVELLO'S CHEAP 8vo ORATORIOS. (Twenty-two ready.)

Catalogues gratis, on application at 69, Dean-street, Soho, or 24, Poultry.

MOZART'S AND HAYDN'S MASSES, in Vocal Score, with an Accompaniment for the Organ or Pianoforte, by VINCENT NOVELLO; with the alto and tenor parts in the G clef. Oblong quarto size.—Mozart's Masses, Nos. 1 to 18, half-bound, in Three Vols., 5s. 6d.—Haydn's Masses, Nos. 1 to 16, in Three Vols., 5s. 6d.—Each Mass, singly, from 1s. 6d. to 6s. each.

J. Alfred Novello, 69, Dean-street, Soho, and 24, Poultry.

MOZART'S TWELFTH MASS, in G, Octavo size, 3s. 6d.; HAYDN'S THIRD MASS, 2s. 6d.; and BEETHOVEN'S MASS, in C, 2s. 6d.—all with English and Latin words, with Accompaniment for the Organ or Pianoforte. The Three in One Volume, cloth, 8s. 6d.

J. Alfred Novello, London and New York.

HANDEL'S THREE CANTATAS, Octavo size, in Vocal Score, with Accompaniment for the Pianoforte by VINCENT NOVELLO. Bound in cloth, 9s.; or, separately Alexander's Feast, 3s. 6d.; Acis and Galatea, 8s.; Ode for St. Cecilia's Day, 2s.

J. Alfred Novello, 69, Dean-street, Soho, and 24, Poultry.

CLARA NOVELLO.—"Lidi amiti," by ANDREA CAGNONI, price 2s. 6d.—Two Songs sung by, and embellished with Illustrations of, Madame Clara Novello. And Cagnoni's Duet, "Amore mio," Sung by Madame Clara Novello and Mr. SAMUEL BROTHERS, Price 1s. 6d.

69, DEAN-STREET, Soho, and 24, Poultry.

NOVELLO'S CHEAP MUSIC: 69, Dean-street, Soho; and 24, Poultry. Catalogues gratis on application, or post free, 6d.

In One Vol., imp. 32mo, 2s. 6d. cloth; 3s. cloth, gilt edges, URGENT QUESTIONS—Personal, Practical, and Political. By the Rev. JOHN CUMMING, D.D.

Each Question may also be had separate.

1. WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST? 2d.

2. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? 2d.

3. HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE? 2d.

4. WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE? 3d.

5. LOVEST THOU ME? 2d.

6. WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT? 2d.

7. WHAT IS YOUR LIFE? 2d.

8. WHY ART THOU CAST DOWN? 2d.

9. WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO? 2d.

10. WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE? 2d.

11. WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? 2d.

12. O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY? 2d.

London: John F. Shaw, Southampton-row, and Paternoster-row.

DR. CUMMING ON THE PENTATEUCH.

SABBATH MORNING READINGS on the OLD TESTAMENT. The PENTATEUCH. By the Rev. JOHN CUMMING, D.D.

Volumes complete:—

THE BOOK of GENESIS. 5s. cloth.

THE BOOK of EXODUS. 5s. cloth.

THE BOOK of LEVITICUS. 5s. cloth.

THE BOOK of NUMBERS. 4s. cloth.

London: John F. Shaw, Southampton-row, and Paternoster-row.

Crown 8vo, price 7s. 6d. cloth.

MANNA in the HEART; or, Daily Comments on the Book of Psalms. Psalm First to Seventy-eighth. By the Rev. BARTON BOUCHIER, A.M., Author of "Manna in the House; or, Daily Comments on the Gospels."

London: John F. Shaw, Southampton-row, and Paternoster-row.

FAMILY COMMENTARY.

The Gospels complete in Three Vols., 18s. cloth.

MANNA in the HOUSE; or, Daily Comments on the Gospels: specially adapted for Reading at Family Worship. By the Rev. BARTON BOUCHIER, A.M. St. Matthew and St. Mark, 6s.; St. Luke, 6s.; St. John, 6s.

London: John F. Shaw, Southampton-row, and Paternoster-row.

FAMILY PRAYERS.

Fac-s. 8vo, 3s. 6d. cloth.

THE ARK in the HOUSE; or, a Series of Family Prayers for a Month: with Prayers for Special Occasions. By the Rev. BARTON BOUCHIER, A.M., Author of "Manna in the House."

London: John F. Shaw, Southampton-row, and Paternoster-row.

Four Vols. imp. 8vo, Two Guineas cloth.

THE DOMESTIC COMMENTARY on the OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS. By the Rev. ROBERT SHILLER, Vicar of Alton Pancras, Dorset. Second Thousand. Beautifully printed in Large Type with the Text. In Two Vols. imp. 8vo, 2s. cloth, or in Four Vols. 4s. cloth. May also be had in a variety of Bindings suitable for Presents, varying in price from 3s. 10s. to 5s. 10s.

London: John F. Shaw, Southampton-row, and Paternoster-row.

Just published, price 5s., One Vol. 8vo.

LECTURES on INSANITY. By FORBES WINSLOW, M.D., D.C.L. "The medical practitioner will in this work, find more of guiding principles, more exact and complete rules for the formation of his judgment, and the determination of his conduct, than in any other work on mental disease. Dr. Winslow has, by his writings, given a great impetus to an enlarged and liberal study of the philosophy of insanity, cerebral pathology, and medical physiology, and has contributed more than any other man of his day to the dissemination of an improved, enlightened, humane, and curative treatment of the insane."—*The Lancet*.

London: John Churchill, New Burlington-street.

MUDIE'S SELECT LIBRARY.—

ALL THE BEST NEW WORKS may be had in succession from this extensive Library by every Subscriber of One Guinea per Annum, and by all First-class Country Subscribers of Two Guineas and upwards. Prospectuses may be obtained on application.

Charles Edward Mudie, 810, New Oxford-street.

SINGLE COPIES of LONDON PAPERS

sent to all parts of the country on remitting stamps to William Thomas and Co., 19 to 21, Catherine-street, Strand, who supply every English and Foreign Newspaper published with promptitude. Globe, Sun, and Standard posted day after publication at 10s. per quarter.

SYDENHAM TROUSERS, 17s. 6d.

SAMUEL BROTHERS, 29, LUDGATE

HILL, Inventors and Sole Manufacturers of the SYDENHAM TROUSERS, at 17s. 6d. Unequalled for Superior Style, Fit, Quality, Perfect Ease, and Gracefulness, so requisite for gentlemanly appearance, and so rarely obtained. The advantage of the SYDENHAM TROUSERS over all others is the systematic self-adjusting principle on which they are constructed. Patterns and Guide to self-measurement sent free.

SAMUEL BROTHERS' stock of OVERCOATS for the PRESENT SEASON is worthy of your inspection, combining the three requisites—quality, style, and moderate price.

Ready-made Clothes equal to bespoke—an advantage not to be obtained at any other establishment.

Dress Coats. 21s. to 42s. Talma 5s. to 50s.

Frock ditto 20s. to 40s. Poucho 21s. to 42s.

Paletots 21s. Fancy Vests. 5s. to 10s.

Oxonian Coat. 16s. to 24s. Hussar Suits. 25s. to 28s.

Albion Over-Coat 21s. to 42s. The New Circular

Toga 25s. to 30s. Coat with Belt 12s. 6d.

A Four-Pound Suit, Samuel Brothers strongly recommend, made from Saxony Cloth, manufactured by an eminent West-of-England House, the wear of which they warrant. Patterns, &c., sent free.

Samuel Brothers, 69, Dean-street, Soho, and 24, Poultry.

29, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); 1, 2, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 and 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

M. JABEZ INWARDS, long and well known in the Provinces, attends daily to give PHRENOLOGICAL CHARTS and WRITTEN DELINEATIONS of CHARACTER, or MESMERIC ADVICE, from 5s. and upwards. English and American Phrenological Works, Charts, and Books, in great variety.

492, New Oxford-street, London.

J. TURNER & SON, CABINET, CHAIR, and SOFA MANUFACTURERS, UPHOLSTERERS, and GENERAL FURNISHERS, 49, Great James's-street, Bedford-row. Manufactury, St. John's-road, Hoxton, London.

The Cottage or Mansion completely furnished in the most modern and elegant style at manufacturers' prices. Design and Price Books gratis on application.

JOHN BOWEN, WATCHMAKER, 2, TICH-
STREET, LONDON, PATENTED.
JOHN BOWEN, Watchmaker, setting off without a compass,
so accurately, that he can tell the exact time of day, even
when it is dark.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH, used in
the Royal Laundry, and pronounced by Her Majesty's
Laundress to be the finest Starch she ever used. Sold by all
Chandlers, Grocers, &c., &c.

WHITE'S PRIVATE BOARDING
HOTEL, 2, PIERREPONT-STREET, BATH, looking
on South Parade, and within Five Minutes walk of the Railway
Station, &c. Conveniences available to Guests, &c.

NEWSOM and COMPANY invite the attention
of Economists to their strong and useful BLACK,
GREEN, and MIXED TEAS, at 2s. 1d. per Pound, for Caffery,
NEWSOM and COMPANY, 49, Borough, London.

ALSOFF'S PALE ALE in BOTTLE and
CASK. This celebrated Ale may be obtained in the sweet
condition from AL SOFF'S, 18, Regent-street.

NATHANIEL EASTTY,

WINE AND BEER MERCHANT, 132, UPPER THAMES-ST.

ECONOMY in SHIRTS.—EVANS (six years
old) now manufactures the best Long Cloth
Shirts. Linen fronts, &c., Six for 3s. 6d.; in Linen, Six for
3s. 6d.; Three-fold Collars, 1s. 6d. per dozen. Sample Collar,
for twelve shillings, and easy directions for measuring, post free,
sent by JOHN EVANS, Inventor and Sole Manufacturer of the
Economy Shirt.

134, NEW BOND-STREET, LONDON.

* See the "Times," February.

ELBOW PERSONAL REQUISITES.
UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF ROYALTY AND THE ARISTOCRACY
THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

And universally preferred and esteemed.

The successful results of the last half century have proved beyond
question that

ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL possesses
peculiarly nourishing powers in the growth, restoration,
and improvement of the human hair. It prevents its falling
off or turning grey—strengthens weak hair—keeps it from
curling and dandruff—and makes it beautifully soft, curly, and
glossy. In the growth of the Beard, Whiskers, and Moustachios,
it is unrivaled in its stimulative operation. For children it is
especially recommended, as forming the basis of a beautiful head
of hair. Price 2s. 6d., 7s., Family bottles (equal to four small
bottles), and double that size, 2s. 6d. each.

ROWLANDS' KALYDOL; an Oriental
Botanical Preparation for Improving and Beautifying the
Complexion; Headaches; Cutaneous Defects; and Discolorations;
and tones the Skin Soft, Fair, and Blooming. It obviates all
the effects of Climacteric of the Skin, whether with reference to cold,
and inclemency, or intense solar heat. Gentlemen after shaving
will appreciate its softening and beautifying properties. Price
4s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. per bottle.

SOUND AND WHITE TEETH

Are not only indispensably requisite to a pleasing exterior in both
sexes, but they are peculiarly appreciated through life as
highly conducive to the purposes of health and longevity.
Among the various preparations offered for the purpose,

ROWLANDS' QDONTO; or, Pearl Dentifrice,
stands unrivaled. Prepared from Oriental Herbs
with unusual care, transmitted to this country at great expense,
this unique compound will be found of incalculable value in Pres-
erving and Beautifying the Teeth, Strengthening the Gums, and
in rendering the Breath sweet and pure. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

Sold by A. ROWLAND and SONS, 20, Hatton-garden,
London, and by Chemists and Perfumers.

* Beware of Spurious Imitations.

UNDER ROYAL PATRONAGE:

INSTANT RELIEF, and a rapid Cure of ASTHMA, CONSUMPTION,
COUGHING, COLD, and all Disorders of the Breath and
Lungs are insured by

D. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS.
From J. D. Marshall, M.D., Lecturer to the Royal Insti-
tution, Belfast, and Chemist in Ireland to Her Majesty the Queen

8, High-street, Belfast.

Gentlemen—I have the gratification of stating that from all I
have been enabled to observe of Dr. Locock's Pulmonic Wafers,
they have been of eminent service in the alleviation of severe
asthmatic coughs, pains in the chest, &c.

I have no doubt that when they become more generally known
in the north of Ireland, they will be as highly esteemed as they
are in other parts of the kingdom. J. D. MARSHALL, M.D.

Witness—J. Mawson, 13, Mosley-street.

CURE OF SEVEN YEARS' COUGH.

From Rev. George Dawson, Primitive Methodist Minister.
Bridge-street, Peel, Isle of Man, Jan. 29, 1851.

Gentlemen.—My wife having been afflicted with a severe cough
for seven years past, during the last spring was brought so
low that her life was despaired of, when a friend recommended
her to try Dr. Locock's Pulmonic Wafers. She did so, and the
benefit she derived from them was truly amazing. She was,
after taking a few boxes, again able to return to her domestic
duties.

I think it would be a great blessing to the afflicted in our island
were they advertised here, as they appear not to be known. You
are at liberty to make what use you may think proper of my
testimony.—I am, yours, &c.

GEORGE DAWSON,
Primitive Methodist Minister.

These Wafers, containing Antacid and Sedative properties,
effectually prevent irregularity of the bowels. They have a
pleasant Taste.

To Singers and Public Speakers they are invaluable, as by their
action on the throat and lungs they remove all hoarseness in a few
hours, and wonderfully increase the power and flexibility of the
voice.

Note.—Full directions are given with every box in the English,
German, and French languages.

Price 1s. 1d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per box.

Also may be had,

DR. LOCOCK'S COSMETIC.

A delightfully fragrant preparation, for Improving and Beautify-
ing the Complexion.

Rendering the skin clear, soft, and transparent, removing all
eruptions, freckles, sunburn, tan, pimples, and roughness, curing
gnat bites, and the stings of insects generally.

In the process of shaving, it relieves all smarting, and renders
the skin soft and smooth. Sold in bottles, at 1s. 1d., 2s. 9d., and
4s. 6d. each. Beware of counterfeits. Observe the words "Dr.
Locock's Cosmetic" on the Government stamp outside the
wrapper. Sold by all respectable chemists.

TOWN TALLOW-MADE CANDLES.
GOOD MOTTLED AND YELLOW SOAP.
OIL OF ALL KINDS.

Chaplin and Lambert, 89 and 90, Leather-lane, Holborn.

FROM FRANGE, GERMANY, or in ENGLAND, the best Manufacturing Talent is obtained, and employed in the construction of the following:—

The EMPEROR'S REDINGOTE, the new garment of the Season.

NICOLL'S PALETOTS, One and Two Guineas each.

THE ALLIED SLEEVE CAPE, One Guinea, Waterproof yet
Evaporable.

NICOLL'S G. INEA TROUSERS, and HALF-GUINEA
WAISTCOATS.

Estimates for Military and other Outfits sent gratis.

Accredited Agents in all parts of the globe, who have the above
and other first-class garments prepared in regulated sizes, so
that they may invariably fit well.

West-end Address, H. J. and D. NICOLL, 118, 119, 120,
Regent-street, and in the City, 29, Cornhill.

THE ALLIED SLEEVE CAPE, ONE GUINEA.

Just published, price 7s. 6d., handsomely printed in damp Svo.
A LIBRARY EDITION of the CONFES-
 SION of FAITH, the larger and shorter Catechisms, with
 the Scripture Proofs at large; together with the Sum of Saving
 Knowledge, now printed by Authority, at the University Press,
 for R. Seton, Edinburgh; and Whittaker and Co., London.

SEBASTOPOL: see HOME COMPANION.
 —New Part, price 7d., contains Twelve Illustrations: Wyld's Model of Sebastopol, plan of the Operations to the Present Time; Cagliastro, or the Living and the Dead; "Rebellion in Russia;" Sailor's Home; a Degree; &c., &c.
 Office, 170, Fleet-street, and all Booksellers.

Just published, price 10s. 6d. cloth.
RATIONAL GODLINESS after the MIND
 of CHRIST, and the WRITTEN VOICES of HIS
 CHURCH. By ROWLAND WILLIAMS, B.D., Fellow, and formerly
 Tutor of King's College, Cambridge, and Professor of Hebrew at
 Lampeter.
 Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, and Co. London: Bell and Daldy.

DIOGENES, No. 124.—Three ha'pence more
 and up goes the ——Louis Petit and his Bird—
 Thoughts in Tatters, &c. Price 3d. Stamped, 3d.
 London: E. Shelton, 69, Fleet-street, and all Booksellers.

Just out,
LIGHT from the LANTERN of DIOGENES. 150
 Comic Cuts. Price 1s.

HISTORY OF MISSIONS.
HISTORY of the PROPAGATION of
 CHRISTIANITY among the HEATHEN since the RE-
 FORMATION. By the Rev. Wm. BROWN, M.D., Secretary of the
 Scottish Missionary Society. In Three Volumes demy Svo.
 price 80s.

William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London.

Just published, in 12mo, price 5s. cloth lettered.
**THE HERO'S CANTICLE, and OTHER
 POEMS.** By ROBERT FLETCHER.
 —The First Canto may be termed a Life-and-Death Ode on
 WELLINGTON; the Second, a Death-and-Life Ode for us ALL.
 The entire Poem is supposed to be recited on the day of the
 Duke's FUNERAL.
 London: Jackson and Walford, 18, St. Paul's-churchyard.

SACRED MUSIC.
DOMESTIC PSALMODY, consisting of
 Psalm and Hymn Tunes, Sacred Songs, Chants, &c., for
 One or more Voices, arranged for the Piano and Harmonium,
 by E. J. WESTRAH (Editor of the "Universal Psalmist").
 In Two Books, each 4s.; or in One Svo. Volume, bound, 6s.
 Post free for Stamps.
 London: Z. T. Purday, 48, High Holborn.

In Svo, 33pp., price 3d., or by post 6d.
 No. III. for May contains "Christ Crucified," by the Rev. Jas. BALDWIN BROWN, B.A., and "An Appeal to Young Men from a Brother's Grave," by the Rev. JOSIAH VINET.

THE CONGREGATIONAL PULPIT.
 Edited by the Rev. T. G. HORTON. Intended to supply
 Original Sermons from distinguished Dissenting Divines, from
 their own Manuscripts.

London: Judd and Glass, Gray's-inn-road; Simpkin, Mar-
 shall, and Co., Stationers' Hall-court.

Now ready, in 1 vol. Svo, price 10s. 6d.,
**DICTIONARY of SCRIPTURE PARAL-
 LEELS and REFERENCES**, being an Index of the Texts
 of Scripture, classified according to their Sense, under an Alphabetic
 List of the various Subjects contained in the Bible; forming
 thus a Methodical Summary of the Principles, the Doctrines,
 the Precepts, and the Facts of Scripture: and comprising the most
 complete Collection of Parallels and References.
 A Specimen-page, with the opinions of the Religious Press re-
 specting this remarkable work, will be forwarded on application
 b letter pre-paid.
 London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 33, Paternoster-row.

WORKING MEN'S EDUCATIONAL UNION.
 In a few days,

FIFTEEN DIAGRAMS on GEOLOGY,
 Uniform with the other Diagrams of the Union, com-
 prising—SECTION of the EARTH'S CRUST (twelve feet by four),
 ORDER of STRATA, SECTION of LONDON BASIN, FOSSILS of the
 SILURIAN, OLD RED SANDSTONE, Carboniferous, New Red Sand-
 stone, Lias, Oolite, Wealden, Chalk, Primary and Superficial
 Systems and Formations.

Price of the Set, to Subscribers, 12. 7s. 6d.; to Non-Subscribers,
 12. 17s. 6d.

London: F. Baron, Depository, 25, King William-street,
 Charing-cross, where all the publications of the Union may be
 obtained.

This day is published, fscp. Svo, cloth, neat, price 3s.,
MODERN POPERY: A series of Letters
 on some of its more important aspects. By R. EVANS,
 Scarborough. Dedicated, by permission, to the Right Honourable
 the Earl of Shaftesbury.

CONTENTS.—I. Rome and the Bible—II. The Supremacy of
 the Pope—III. Auricular Confession—IV. The Worship of the
 Virgin Mary—V. Saints, Images, and Relics—VI. Purgatory and
 Prayers for the Dead—VII. Transubstantiation and the Mass—
 VIII. The Moral Teaching of Rome.

London: Houlston and Stoneman, Paternoster-row. Leeds
 J. Heaton and Son, 7, Briggate.

12mo, cloth, price 2s. 6d., with Second Appendix,
**THE SENSIBILITY of SEPARATE
 SOULS** CONSIDERED. By CALEB WEBB.
 "The book is full of thought—much of it original thought....
 May be safely recommended as a skilful illustration of Scripture
 testimony."—Baptist Magazine.

"The work is one of deep interest.... It contains a good deal
 of good sense, and not a little sound exposition."—British Banner.
 "A painstaking and elaborate argument on the affirmative of
 the question."—Guardian.

"A book well worth reading.... Will be very useful, not
 only in reference to its main subject, but as a check to the super-
 ficial eschatology which threatens to prevail among us."—The
 Church.

London: Houlston and Stoneman, 63, Paternoster-row.

Also, by the same, price 4d.,

RELIGION: its Sources, Character, and
 Supports.
 HEADS of ARGUMENT.—Religion in General—Religion of Ab-
 stract Conception—Man's Original Concrete Harmonious Con-
 crete—Fallen, Antagonistic—Conflict of Concrete with Abstract
 —Antagonism of Concrete Surmounted by Faith—Religion Di-
 viney Developed—The Great Sustainer of Religion—Christian
 Religiousness—Religious Worship.
 London: Houlston and Stoneman, 63, Paternoster-row.

Now ready, in foolscap Svo, price 2s. cloth,
ANTI-MYSTICISM; or, Man in his Rela-
 tion to the Holy Spirit, Revealed Truth, and Divine Grace.
 By W. E. BAKER, "Author of "Our State Church," "Intemper-
 ance and the Curse of Britain," &c.

Also, Fourth Edition, price 2s. cloth,
THE CURSE of BRITAIN: an Essay on the Evils,
 Causes, and Cure of Intemperance. With an Introductory
 Chapter on the Maine Law. By W. E. BAKER.

Also, price 2s. cloth,
OUR STATE CHURCH: Her Structure, Doctrines,
 Forms, and Character.
 Ward and Co., 27, Paternoster-row.

MINISTERS and DEACONS of
 CHURCHES visiting the Metropolis during May may
 obtain specimens of the various sizes of the Hymn-book at the
 Publishers.

THE NEW EDITION of the DOUBLE COLUMN-BOOK is
 now ready, and may be had either separately or bound with a
 Bible clasped.

"While the book is one of exceeding excellence, the present
 edition is one of unsurpassed beauty, presenting in double
 columns, within a small space, and at a very limited cost, a
 publication which deserves the widest diffusion."—The British
 Banner.

"We have taken some trouble to examine and compare this
 book with the works of a similar character. The task has brought
 to our notice many of the choicest specimens of sacred poetry.
 We believe it to be the most complete collection of sacred hymns
 that we have."—The Christian Spectator.

London: Ward and Co., Paternoster-row.

WORKS BY REV. NEWMAN HALL, B.A.
FOLLOW JESUS: a Sequel to "Come to
 Jesus." 52nd Thousand. 3d. and 1s.

COME to JESUS. 546th Thousand. 3d. and 1s.
 large type, 1s. and 2s.

IT IS I. 90th Thousand. 6d. and 1s.

NIAGARA. 20th Thousand. 2d.

LIFE of Dr. GORDON. 19th Thousand. 1s. 6d.

THE FORUM and the VATICAN. 3rd Thousand. 6s.

THE MAN CHRIST JESUS. 8d.

THE BOOK of COMMON PRAYER, Adapted for
 General Use, Arranged for the Congregation at Surrey
 Chapel. 2s.

London: Nisbet; Snow; and all Booksellers.

MISS LINDSAY'S EXCELSIOR.—
 Song. Words by LONGFELLOW. Finely Illustrated,
 2s. 6d.—"An exquisite lyric."—Eliza Cook. "Stirring and ex-
 pressive."—Weekly Times. "Sublime in its simplicity."—Port-
 smouth Guardian. "A gem, which in this musical setting is seen
 to greater advantage."—Patriot. "Makes the heart echo the
 cry of 'Excelsior.'—Epitomist. "Worthy of the exquisite lines of
 Longfellow."—Church and State Gazette. "Chaste and simple."
 British Banner. Also, by the same Authorress, "The Lord will
 provide a Sacred Song," 2s. 6d.; "Speak Gently," 2s. 6d.; "The
 Hymn of the Moravian Nuns," duet, 3s.; and "A Psalm of Life,"
 vocal duet, 3s.

London: Robert Cocks and Co., New Burlington-street, music
 publishers to her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and his
 Imperial Majesty Napoleon III.
 Sheep, 8d.; embossed roan, gilt edges, 1s. 4d.
 Supplied to schools by the Manchester publishers, bound in
 sheep, 6d.; or in roan gilt, 1s. for cash only.

N.B.—This book is adopted in Cavendish-street Sunday-school,
 Manchester (Rev. Dr. Hailey's); Hope Chapel Schools, Salford
 (Rev. G. B. Bulwer's); and in other important Sunday-schools.
 Manchester: Fletcher and Tubbs. London: Hamilton
 Adams, and Co.

Now ready,
HYMNS and SACRED SONGS for SUN-
 DAY SCHOOLS and SOCIAL WORSHIP.—A new Se-
 lection, containing numerous compositions never before included
 in similar works; with many original Hymns and Songs. In
 Two Parts:—I. Hymns especially suited to Childhood and Youth;
 II. Hymns for Elder Scholars, Teachers, and Social Worship.
 In 32mo, containing 250 pages, and upwards of 300 hymns.
 Sheep, 8d.; embossed roan, gilt edges, 1s. 4d.

Supplied to schools by the Manchester publishers, bound in
 sheep, 6d.; or in roan gilt, 1s. for cash only.

N.B.—This book is adopted in Cavendish-street Sunday-school,
 Manchester (Rev. Dr. Hailey's); Hope Chapel Schools, Salford
 (Rev. G. B. Bulwer's); and in other important Sunday-schools.

Manchester: Fletcher and Tubbs. London: Hamilton
 Adams, and Co.

Now ready,
A N IMPROVED PLAN for READING and
 BOOK SOCIETIES throughout the Kingdom, providing
 a constant succession of the best New and Standard Books for
 perusal, without Purchase; the option of purchasing any work
 desired at half the publishing price, as soon as the first demand
 has subsided, and the presentation of Two Guineas' worth of
 Books annually to the Secretary of each Society. Delivered
 gratis, or sent post free to orders enclosing two stamps addressed
 to Messrs. Bull, Huntley, and Co., Library, 19, Holles-street, Oxford-
 street (four doors from Cavendish-square), London.

PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION.

A HISTORY of ENGLAND. By G. S.
 POULTON. In one large Vol., Svo, price 12s.

C HURCH WORLD. By H. N. BARNETT,
 Author of "The Youthful Inquirer," &c.

HISTORICAL CITIES of EASTERN
 EUROPE. Four Lectures illustrative of the Past and
 Present of Turkey, Russia, Austria, Hungary, and Poland; with
 a Fifth Lecture on the Character and Career of Nicholas, late
 Emperor of Russia. By WASHINGTON WILKS, Author of "A
 History of the Half Century," "Life of Edward Irving," &c., &c.

ZAPHNATH-PAANEAH; or, the History
 of Joseph; viewed in connexion with Egyptian Antiquities
 and the customs of the Times in which he lived. By the
 Rev. THORNLEY SMITH, Author of "South Africa Delineated,"
 &c., &c.

N.B. This work is designed to illustrate the History of Joseph
 by means of the most recent discoveries in Egyptian History and
 Antiquities, and will at the same time embody a complete Com-
 mentary on the last fourteen chapters of the Book of Genesis.

London: William Freeman, 69, Fleet-street.

MR. HARVEY ON DEAFNESS.

Just published, price 2s. 6d., by post, 3s.

THE EAR in HEALTH and DISEASE:
 with Remarks on the Prevention of Deafness. Illustrated
 with Wood Engravings. By WILLIAM HARVEY, F.R.C.S. Sur-
 geon to the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear.

"This work should be largely consulted by those suffering
 from the affliction of deafness, and will prevent the quackery and
 imposition practised by the ignorant pretender."—Critic.

London: Henry Renshaw, Strand.

"ENGLAND'S SCOURGE," CONSUMPTION.
DECLINE CURABLE in ALL ITS
 STAGES.—Read Mr. George Thomas Congreve's work
 (Eighteenth Edition, post free for five stamps) which treats
 of the Causes, Symptoms, and Progress of this fell disease, traces
 it through all its stages, establishes a NEW, a RATIONAL, a
 HOPEFUL THEORY, develops the only SUCCESSFUL MEANS
 of CURE, confirming the same by EXTRAORDINARY CASES
 of recent data.

The Author may be consulted personally (an appointment
 being first made by the patient), or by letter, at his private resi-
 dence, 11, Hanover-street, Peckham. The Pamphlet may be had,
 post free, by enclosing five stamps.

Printed by WILLIAM FREEMAN, of 15, Hill-street, Peckham,
 Surrey, at 121, Fleet-street; and published by him at No. 69,
 Fleet-street, London.—Wednesday, May 9, 1855.